

Identity Crisis at Le Monde: Its Journalist-Owners Are No Longer on Top of the World



André Laurens, editor-in-chief of Le Monde.

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Le Monde, which has been required reading for the influential and the intellectual in France since it was founded after World War II, was the nation's most prosperous and fastest expanding daily newspaper as recently as 1980.

On Monday, after a three-year hiatus in circulation and advertising, Le Monde's journalists are to vote on a proposal to drastically reform the paper, trying to haul it out of debt while preserving its quality.

With income estimated at 700 million francs (\$73.7 million) this year, Le Monde is expected to lose 37.9 million francs, roughly doubling its debt. Advertising, which provides 55 percent of the paper's income, is down, especially the classified ads, which have been hard hit by the recession.

André Laurens, 49, Le Monde's editor and publisher, wants to start streamlining the paper's operations with a 14-percent salary cut for most positions. In addition, he proposes to sell and lease back Le Monde's offices in central Paris, and move some printing away from Paris presses to facsimile printing in the provinces.

His austerity plan, announced last week, triggered a two-day strike by Le Monde employees. Mr. Laurens said he will to resign if his proposal is not approved Monday.

Many of Le Monde's readers think its problems have institutional and political ramifications that amount to a professional identity crisis.

The paper has a senior editor said, "typically French complexes, in a particularly acute form, about dealing with money and about negotiating toughly with personnel and unions."

At the core of developments at Le Monde is its system of ownership, whereby the paper belongs to the journalists who produce it — an arrangement designed to protect it from outside pressure by governments or investors.

A built-in majority of 51 percent belongs to the editor and to the journalists association, which is to

meet Monday for the vote. The remaining shares belong to an eminent group of outsiders.

The system is considered by some to be part of the problem. Any rejuvenation of Le Monde must be approved by the collective ownership. Reform, in other words, must come from the same people who presided over Le Monde in the flush 1970s, when, press analysts say, its paternalistic management failed to confront trade unions and its journalists allowed the paper to become stodgy.

Symptomatic of its relentlessly pedagogical approach is Le Monde's austere format. A tabloid with dry headlines, it bases news pictures because editors prefer the proverbial thousand words of descriptive prose.

"A paper that tried starting out today with that approach would probably sell only 50,000 copies," said Eudes Delafon, a French media analyst.

Le Monde still has a circulation of 375,000, but it has been dropping steadily from a high of 435,000 three years ago. To attract readers, Le Monde has tried to innovate — with an abortive comic magazine that lost 2.4 million francs, photographs in weekend leisure sections, a comic strip, color ads and an airtier layout.

Le Monde's revenue squeeze is critical, analysts say, because of the paper's high overhead. The paper has 180 journalists and a nonjournalistic staff of 1,100, most of them earning more than people with similar jobs at other French papers.

The Communist-led printers union has refused job cuts, insisting that printers type news material into computers for typesetting. Most Western newspapers outside Britain have saved jobs by having journalists, not printers, do this work.

If Mr. Laurens resigns, it could make way for former business and journalistic management, Jean-Pierre Clerc, former head of the journalists association at Le Monde, says in a forthcoming article that the system has made the editor "Mr. 51 Percent," thereby diluting the authority he once had, a luxury Le Monde cannot afford in the currently harsh economic climate.

Even Le Monde's political credibility has become subject to question.

Le Monde has been left-leaning since it was started

40 years ago this month, at the instigation of de Gaulle, who wanted a prestigious national paper reflecting the ideals of the French resistance.

While opinionated, the paper managed to remain independent, speaking for the French establishment yet ready to tackle the government of the day. Only Le Monde seemed able to maintain this stance with impunity in France, where governments appear to expect to manipulate the media.

But the Socialist victory in 1981, a rival editor said, "was a poisoned gift for Le Monde," which has appeared reluctant to criticize a government that many of its reporters openly support.

This malaise, worsened by staff infighting in 1982 when Mr. Laurens, a compromise candidate, was elected by the journalist-owners as editor, has given critics overtones to Le Monde's financial troubles, amid what is an industry-wide crisis.

Le Monde has shunned innovations as broad as the brighter look and tougher management imposed on The Times of London by the Australian press tycoon Rupert Murdoch, or the expansion of leisure coverage that has been lucrative for The New York Times.

Characteristic of Le Monde's lofty approach, journalists refused in 1976 to allow Le Monde's presses to print the weekly France Dimanche because it was considered sensationalist. There is no other candidate for sharing Le Monde's presses, because of their unique format. Le Monde inherited its printing plant from Le Temps, a prewar paper tainted by collaboration.

But Le Monde remains France's biggest-circulating quality daily paper, and it ranks second in advertising revenues, trailing only Le Figaro.

Most other French national newspapers are losing money, surviving with the help of annual government subsidies estimated to top 5 billion francs — in cheap newspaper, favorable postal rates, tax breaks and even direct loans. This enables Paris to support 12 daily papers, more even than London.

The only profitable Paris-based national daily is Le Figaro, a conservative paper owned by Robert Hersant. It is kept in the black by its money-spinning weekly magazine, thick with glossy color ads.

And Le Monde faces an intellectual challenge from the brasher approach of Liberation, a paper that emerged from the social upheaval in France in May 1968. Its young reporters cover social issues and cultural themes that are attracting the younger readers who used to buy Le Monde.

Liberation, which has strong editorial leadership, has scooped Le Monde on major political stories such as the Socialist's U-turn toward austerity and the diplomatic bungling in Chad.

But even Liberation, with a circulation of 120,000, operates at a loss. And Le Monde's problem, some senior journalists say, cannot be solved by copying other formulas.

Le Monde's debt is a crucial issue because it threatens to undermine the paper's most valued quality, its independence. For months, according to published reports, Le Monde has been relying on loans from the Banque Nationale de Paris, a nationalized bank whose credit terms could be influenced by government officials.

Government pressure is blamed by several senior Le Monde staff members for preventing the paper from making a major change toward competitiveness: becoming a morning paper.

Le Monde, a modern rarity in being a quality paper published in the evening, would then be able to compete with profitable provincial morning papers. Currently those papers get much of their news from the previous day's Le Monde, which is delivered in the provincial cities the morning after it is printed in Paris.

But Le Monde would then compete with other government morning papers, and leave France-Soir, owned by Mr. Hersant, as the only national evening newspaper.

The fate of Mr. Laurens's plan is uncertain. Even if Le Monde stabilizes its finances, many of the paper's journalists want to see changes in management, perhaps even an appeal for outside funds to pay for modernization.

But Mr. Laurens has rejected the idea of outside investors; it would "destroy Le Monde's soul," he told a French interviewer recently.

Duarte Rejects Proposal by Rebels

By James LeMoyné
New York Times Service

SAN SALVADOR — President José Napoleón Duarte has rejected a rebel plan calling for a new government, a new constitution and a new army for El Salvador. But he said negotiations would continue.

Mr. Duarte said the demands, which were presented Friday at the second meeting in a series of peace talks, were "hard, intransigent, inconsequential and totalitarian," and called on the rebels to reconsider them.

"This document has an objective," Mr. Duarte said Saturday at a news conference. "He who reads it will find this is an invitation for unconditional surrender. I cannot accept a document under these conditions. What I propose is that they revise their position."

The rebels' plan contains three steps that are intended to be discussed and carried out over time.

The first stage calls for a "national forum" to discuss the civil war and for measures to "humanize" the conflict — such as agreeing to end the bombing of civilian non-combatants — and end human rights abuses. It also calls for a withdrawal of U.S. military advisers, an end to economic sabotage and a moratorium on the importing of weapons.

The second phase calls for a formal cease-fire with territorial concessions to both armies and an end to U.S. involvement in the internal affairs of the country.

The third stage would include a new constitution, a new government of "national consensus" and reorganization of the army. Elections are to be held as a final step rather than as a first step toward political change as Mr. Duarte has proposed.

Rubén Zamora, a rebel spokesman, said the insurgents would stand by their proposal, which he said was open to further negotiation. The plan was approved by the Democratic Revolutionary Front, the rebels' political wing, and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, the military arm, he added.

Mr. Zamora defended the decision to make strong demands early in the talks, even though such demands might threaten continued negotiations.

"We prefer to say sincerely that these are the problems that have to be confronted and resolved," he said. "If the guerrillas did not mention their intention now to restructure the army, he added, 'we would simply be accused of hiding problems.'"

The demands turned what had been intended as a low-level working meeting at Ayagualo, nine miles (14.5 kilometers) south of the capital, into a 12-hour negotiating session.

In a joint statement after the meeting, the two sides announced an accord allowing civilian holiday traffic to move on the highways between Dec. 22 and Jan. 3. They also said that they had agreed on working procedures and would meet again.

However, unlike their first meeting, Oct. 15 in the northern town of La Palma, the second session did not end with the announcement of a specific place for the next meeting. Mr. Duarte said it would take place in January.

The rebel plan restated many past positions, including some that had been ruled out by Mr. Duarte's government and members of the country's armed forces.

Mr. Duarte said that the rebels had to accept the legitimacy of his government and the present constitution as starting points for talks. A government proposal offered last month asked rebel forces to give up their arms, accept a general amnesty and participate in elections under the present constitution.



José Napoleón Duarte

Mr. Duarte said the rebel demands would fuel attacks on the peace process from conservative critics. A government official said fears of rightist reaction had led Mr. Duarte to go on television on Friday to promptly reject the rebel proposal.

The army should not and would not consider a demand to restructure itself to include guerrilla forces, Mr. Duarte said in that appearance.

The official said, "This country has had many coups d'état. The right has many means within the army."

Zia Calls Referendum, Asks 5-Year Mandate

Reuters

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq has announced plans for a referendum on policies to increase the use of Islamic law, saying he would remain in power for another five years if his proposals won approval.

General Zia said Saturday he has decided to hold a referendum Dec. 19 because several banned opposition parties planned to boycott elections for a National Assembly, which he has promised by March.

He said that the referendum would contain one question: Whether voters approved of his drive to replace Pakistan's British-style legal system with laws based on Islamic teachings and wanted power to be handed over peacefully to elected representatives.

The opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, which began its election boycott campaign on Tuesday, called the referendum a fraud that was intended to keep General Zia in power.

From Karachi, opposition sources said Sunday that the anti-government coalition would boycott the referendum. They said the

decision was made at a secret meeting of representatives of all 11 banned political parties that make up the coalition.

The secretary-general of the opposition organization, Khwaja Khairuddin, said that the proposed referendum is the greatest fraud in the name of Islam for the past 1,400 years.

General Zia, who seized power in 1977, has twice canceled promised elections. He said the elections would go ahead in spite of the boycott threat, but set no date.

In a live television broadcast Saturday, the Pakistani leader said, referring to the opposition, "the question arises whether I should accept what they say or what the masses say. My vote is with the masses."

General Zia said some that politicians were receiving money and support from outside the country "to cause turmoil, terror and violence" at the behest of their foreign masters.

[A main opposition objection is that the referendum question is in fact three separate questions, and therefore cannot be answered with a single yes or no vote, Agency France-Press reported.]

WORLD BRIEFS

Marcos Fails to Make Appearance

MANILA (UPI) — President Ferdinand E. Marcos failed to make a scheduled public appearance Sunday amid reports of renewed rebel activity in the south.

Nicanor Yniguez, speaker of the National Assembly read a keynote address that Mr. Marcos had been scheduled to deliver to a convention of the International College of Surgeons.

Mr. Marcos has not been seen in public since Nov. 13, although he has been shown three times on television meeting with cabinet officials or being treated by his doctor for "early signs" of the flu. Mr. Yniguez said Mr. Marcos was still recuperating.

Authorities said Sunday that during the previous 24 hours, 33 people were killed in a major battle between soldiers and communist rebels in Zamboanga del Sur province and seven died in terrorist attacks in the port city of Davao.

Police to Hunt for Sub's Falkland Log

LONDON (WP) — A police inquiry has been ordered into the disappearance of the navigation log of the British submarine Conqueror, which sank the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano during the 1982 Falkland Islands war.

The investigation was ordered Friday after Defense Minister Michael Heseltine reported to Parliament that a navy inquiry failed to locate the missing logs or find an explanation for their disappearance. Two weeks ago, the ministry acknowledged that the submarine's signals log had been routinely destroyed.

The Argentine cruiser was sunk May 2, 1982, with the loss of 368 lives. Critics in Parliament have maintained that the cruiser was sunk to sabotage a peace plan by Peru rather than because it was a threat to the British fleet. They also claim that government documents show that the Belgrano was heading away from the British task force 11 hours before it was torpedoed.

Rogers Warns of Nuclear Response

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — NATO forces in Western Europe would have to resort to nuclear weapons if they were attacked because they lack adequate conventional military means, General Bernard W. Rogers, the alliance's supreme commander, said Sunday.

"By declining to pay the bill for adequate conventional forces, our nations have mortgaged NATO's defense to the nuclear response," he said at a news conference in Los Angeles.

Declaring that the Warsaw Pact countries had at least a 2 to 1 superiority over the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the military balance in terms of quantity, General Rogers said: "Under current conditions and if the present political will prevails, we would have no recourse if attacked conventionally but to have to resort to nuclear weapons."

Court Rules Against Scargill on Assets

LONDON (AP) — The High Court in London has removed the National Union of Mineworkers' assets of \$10.7 million from control of the union's leader, Arthur Scargill, its vice president, Mick McGahey, and its general secretary, Peter Heathfield.

Judge Mervyn Davies ruled Friday in favor of 16 working coal miners who claimed Mr. Scargill and other officials were guilty of contempt of court for refusing to pay court fines. The fines stemmed from a ruling that the miners' strike called in March was illegal because it had not been authorized by a union membership vote.

Judge Davies appointed a receiver, Herbert Brewer, to take control of the assets. On Saturday, appeals judges upheld the ruling. Receivers said they would move Monday to bring £4.3 million (\$5.16 million) of union funds back to Britain from a bank in Luxembourg.

Kuwait Arms 2 Islands After 'Threats'

KUWAIT (AFP) — Kuwait has put troops on the islands of Warbah and Bubiyan, between Iran and Iraq in the extreme northwest of the Gulf, and installed anti-air defenses, including ground-to-air missile ramps, the Defense Ministry announced Sunday.

The defense minister, Sheikh Salim al-Sabah, said the action had been taken because Kuwait had recently received "threats," whose origin and exact nature he declined to disclose. However, it was thought likely he was referring to a warning directed at Kuwait two weeks ago by Iran against ceding the islands to Iraq.

Kuwait has firmly backed Iraq against Iran in the Gulf war, but reliable sources said that recently the emirate had considerably slowed the transit of weapons and supplies across its soil to Iraq, which has been denied the use of its only Gulf port, Basra, since the outbreak of hostilities.

For the Record

Pope John Paul II will visit Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago from Jan. 26 to Feb. 6, the Vatican said Saturday. It will be the pope's 25th overseas trip. (AP)

The chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Nancy Harvey Stearns, resigned Friday. She had been one of the highest-ranking women in the Reagan administration. Officials and sources close to the commission said Terrence M. Scanlon, a Democratic member of the commission, was likely to succeed Miss Stearns. (UPI)

President Albert René of the Seychelles said that Soviet military advisers were manning strategic defense points on the island republic but denied his country has been converted into a Soviet military base. (UPI)

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia was quoted Sunday as saying he planned a parliament and a constitution to put his kingdom on the road to democracy. He said he would create a consultative assembly "within three or four months." (AP)

Correction

The headline on a story about Degussa in Saturday's financial section was misleading. The headline should have indicated that Degussa's profits rose by an undisclosed amount in fiscal 1984.

Doubts Cast On FitzGerald

(Continued from Page 1)

time" since Ireland took over the presidency. Mr. FitzGerald said recently in Brussels. Appearing tired and drawn, he conceded that his meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain a few days earlier had dominated his schedule, as had the drafting of a national economic plan.

But he added that the main role of an EC council president is to preside over the summit meeting and personally intervene in preparations only when necessary. He noted that he had met with several EC leaders in August and early September.

The fact that Mr. Barry and other Irish officials have been handling pre-summit negotiations with their EC-member counterparts is "only normal," Mr. FitzGerald said. "They have been doing an excellent job in bringing the EC governments along," he added.

One Irish diplomat said that small countries hosting summits often are blamed for failure to act like the more powerful EC govern-



Garret FitzGerald

ments. "But damn it," he said, "we have made progress in the Irish presidency. We have just not made a big song and dance about it."

Irish officials emphasized that under Ireland's presidency, controversies over the 1984 and 1985 budgets were resolved. The officials directed completion of negotiations with developing countries for a third five-year trade and aid agreement, and Dublin guided the talks, with Spain and Portugal.

Still to be tested is the chemistry of the EC leaders once they are together.

EC Membership of Spain, Portugal Among Key Issues in Dublin Summit

International Herald Tribune

THE BACKGROUND: The summit meeting Monday and Tuesday of European Community leaders in Dublin is the triennial gathering of the leaders of the trade bloc's 10 member nations. It follows the summit June 25-26, in Fontainebleau, France, where the most important agreement was establishment of a permanent, community payments system that ended the bitter, four-year controversy over Britain's contribution to the EC budget.

THE ISSUES: The main question to be resolved is the enlargement of the community through membership of Spain and Portugal. EC leaders will be under pressure to complete negotiations with both countries by the end of the year to allow time for member parliaments to ratify the entry treaties. Establishing EC wine quotas is considered an essential prerequisite for continuing entry talks with Spain.

Strengthening EC political cooperation also is expected to be a key issue. West Germany and France, among others, want to accelerate the process, while Britain would rather pursue integration of industrial markets through such measures as establishing a common transport policy and easing protectionist barriers to government procurement in EC countries.

2 Investigators of Priest Case Die in Car Crash in Poland

(Continued from Page 1)

group of foreign journalists that the Popieluszko slaying had badly damaged his government, which he said would spare no effort to find anyone who may have directed or protected the three officers who had been charged.

A fourth officer, Colonel Adam Pietruszka, has been charged with abetting the killing. Zycie Warszawy, the government newspaper, quoted the general prosecutor handling the investigation as saying that Colonel Pietruszka would be indicted as well for plotting the crime.

■ Solidarity Describes Killing
An underground Solidarity news release said the slain Solidarity activist, Stanislaw Chmiel, 42, died in a hospital two days after being abducted, beaten and tortured on Oct. 19.

It said Mr. Chmiel, a Solidarity leader at an auto plant in Lublin in southeastern Poland, was found unconscious in a street Oct. 20 by medics who had responded to a police telephone call notifying them of his condition and whereabouts.

Glomp Silences Priest

Bradley Graham of The Washington Post reported Saturday from Warsaw:

Cardinal Glomp's most recent attempt to curb political activity by Polish priests was conveyed in a letter signed by the cardinal dated Nov. 24 and addressed to all church rectors and administrators in the Warsaw area.

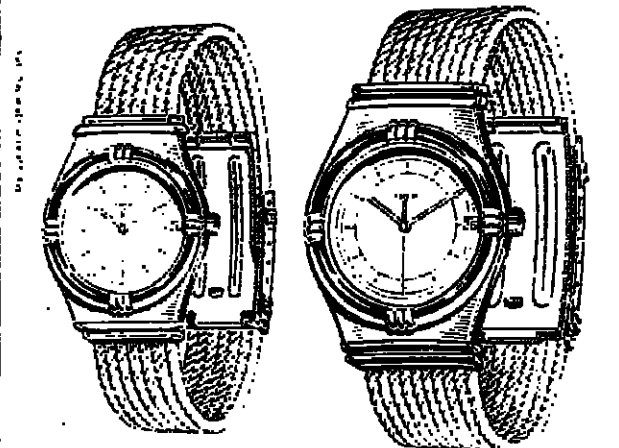
The cardinal left for Rome two days later to discuss with Pope John Paul II the Popieluszko case and its implications for future church-state relations. He was due to return Monday.

Church sources described the letter as an overdue effort by the prime minister to discipline the Rev. Stanislaw Malkowski.

[Father Malkowski celebrated Mass at a church in Padkova and later home that, according to witnesses, they gunned down the prime minister.]

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Reagan Tentatively Decides To Cut Medical, Housing Aid

By Francis X. Clines

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan has tentatively decided on cuts in Medicaid and federal housing assistance, and is leaning toward a freeze on U.S. government salaries and on cost-of-living adjustments for all pension programs but Social Security, according to administration officials.

The officials described the president as making his initial, tentative decisions on a new budget while attempting to hold overall spending next year at this year's level. The White House staff has used the term "freeze," but officials said Friday that the term was more useful politically than technically.

A Reagan administration official said a spending freeze was impossible in a literal sense in federal budgeting, where contracts and the big programs that entitle people to automatic benefits run into the future.

As a result, the actions are being considered in relation to original budget projections, and a freeze in a program would hold services at the same level while altering spending to account for inflation or other factors.

The official said Mr. Reagan was reviewing the budget with an eye toward accommodating the political needs of Senate Republicans who have requested that an across-the-board freeze be tried.

Mr. Reagan was reported to be halfway through a list of about 100 major budget options, deciding whether to cut, freeze or end various programs. The large question of military spending was left for this week's budget sessions.

In the private sessions, according to one official, the president was asking questions about who would be affected by various cuts in Medicaid and housing aid, and choos-

ing to accept some, but not all. Officials declined to offer his precise decisions, saying they were subject to revision.

Under these broad categories, the administration has sought to end such programs as urban and community development aid and assistance for new public housing for the poor. It also has sought limits on how much the federal government contributes to the Medicaid program, which pays for medical care for the poor.

The president's spokesman, Larry Speakes, stressed Friday that Mr. Reagan was "considering" the notion of a "freeze" in the general sense of trying to hold the overall spending level for next year's budget at the estimated current level of \$835 billion, excluding payments for interest on the national debt.

Mr. Speakes said such a general guideline would meet or possibly exceed the goal of cutting \$45 billion from unspecified spending programs next year and still more over the following two years, so that the current deficit of about \$200 billion a year is cut in half by the fiscal year 1988. The fiscal year 1985 began Oct. 1.

White House officials emphasize that even the tentative decisions the president has made for terminating or trimming programs are subject to review.

The administration already has served notice on the House Democratic leadership that, whatever the precise package of cuts that eventually evolves, the president will seek to generate public pressure on the Congress to deal with it in a single vote rather than debating it in separate pieces.

Another official estimated privately that most of the reduction would have to come from deeper cuts than a supposedly even-handed "freeze" approach could produce.

The president's budget director, David A. Stockman, originally proposed ending programs in sensitive areas such as farm subsidies and urban transit aid. This process now has been adjusted somewhat to pay closer attention to retaining last year's overall spending level, but the result is certain to end or deeply cut various programs, administration officials said.

The deficits for the fiscal years 1986 through 1988 are projected by the administration to be in the range of \$200 billion to \$225 billion, without any further spending reductions or tax increases.

The administration has set a goal of cutting overall spending by \$45 billion in 1986, \$85 billion in 1987 and \$110 billion in 1988. The president opposes any tax increases to help reduce the deficit.

Regan Defends Plan

Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan defended Saturday his department's tax plan proposal that would eliminate federal income tax deductions for state and local taxes, saying that "my heart will not break" over "high-tax states trying to protect their wealthy taxpayers."

The Associated Press reported from Washington. Under current federal income tax laws, people who itemize their federal income tax returns may deduct the amount they pay in state and local taxes. Under the Treasury Department proposal, state and local taxes would no longer be deducted.

New York state's residents are the greatest beneficiaries of this provision.

"I have no sympathy for high-tax states trying to protect their wealthy taxpayers," Mr. Regan said in a television interview program. "Seventy percent of the people in New York State do not itemize. Therefore, they are not affected by this at all."



SOVIET FARM TOUR — Members of a Soviet delegation visiting Galesburg, Illinois, watch as the U.S. secretary of agriculture, John R. Block, right, hands a pig to Valentin K. Mesyats, the first Soviet agriculture minister to visit the United States since 1971. Mr. Block later said the countries would expand agricultural contacts.

Air-Crash Experiment Fails in U.S. Radio-Guided Jet Burns Despite a New Fuel Mixture

By Douglas R. Feaver

Washington Post Service

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California — The radio-controlled test crash of a jetliner as part of research into eliminating lethal fires caused by aircraft fuel resulted instead in a spectacular burst of flames and smoke.

A fireball engulfed three-fourths of the four-engine Boeing 720 immediately after it crashed Saturday in the desert in a test performed by two U.S. government agencies. The plane carried no passengers and no crew.

The fireball lasted about six seconds, and was followed by an outpouring of black smoke that often accompanies landing crashes. Flames from what officials called a "secondary fire" were visible through the smoke.

A radio transmission from the crash site 19 minutes after impact said technicians were having difficulty putting the fire out, and smoke was still rising from the wreckage on Rogers Dry Lake an hour after the crash. Two large holes had been burned in the top of the fuselage and the interior of the cabin was described as charred.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration sponsored the \$11.8-million crash primarily to test an aircraft fuel mixture called anti-misting kerosene. If it had worked as projected, the fuel-fueled fireball that almost always accompanies plane crashes would not have attached itself to the airplane, although small fires were expected.

The plane was the largest ever flown by remote control. It carried 75 dummies and more than 350 electronic sensors plus 12 high-speed cameras in the cabin. James Woodall, executive assistant to the chief of the Federal Aviation Administration's technical center in Atlantic City, New Jersey, said that the first release of

fuel "did ignite and went out. Soon after that there was a secondary flash and it did stick with the airplane."

Mr. Woodall said he was "perplexed" by the secondary fire. Mr. Woodall is the man generally regarded as a prime mover of the concept behind the test crash that was supposed to prevent such fires.

"We don't have all the answers, obviously," he said. Mr. Woodall said he hoped answers would be found later because "even if everything was destroyed out there, we have the data" from telemetry and many onboard experiments that were expected to survive.

Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Hanford Dole, who witnessed the crash on a mountaintop four miles (6.4 kilometers) away with a group of aerospace industry officials and journalists, had said earlier that she hoped to issue by next spring a proposed federal rule to require anti-misting kerosene.

The administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Donald D. Engen, said after the crash that it was still his goal to forward a rule to Mrs. Dole, but that "a lot depends on the initial reduction of data" derived from the crash.

James McAbee of ICI Americas Inc., the chemical company that manufactured the fuel additive, called the test "inconclusive."

He agreed, however, that the fireball that people would see on their television screens made it potentially more difficult to get a federal rule requiring his product.

The anti-misting kerosene, he said, "performed as expected, but some other scenarios took over." Officials had hoped the plane would slide along the ground for a greater distance than it did.

Tom Trip, a spokesman for the Air Transport Association, which represents many U.S. airlines, said, "The product didn't work as advertised." The airlines, anticipating a regulatory requirement for anti-misting kerosene, have been concerned about its potentially high cost because of aircraft modifications that would be required to use the fuel, and about its effectiveness.

Mr. Woodall said he hoped some of the cameras in the plane survived the fire. Those near the cabin's ceiling, he said, probably did not. Other experiments on board the aircraft included specially designed seats, including some facing the rear, that are supposed to improve chances of passengers surviving the impact of a crash; floor-level exit lights to assist passengers when smoke builds in the cabin, and special fabrics on many seat cushions that are supposed to retard the spread of flames.

9 Protestant Churches Approve a Framework For Future U.S. Merger

By Kenneth A. Briggs

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Representatives of nine major Protestant denominations have approved a set of accords intended to provide the theological basis for the eventual merger of the churches.

The Consultation on Church Union, meeting in Baltimore on Friday, adopted a 48,000-word statement of agreement on key issues, including baptism, forms of ministry, creeds and worship. Although it is conceptual rather than practical, church officials said the document helps remove the big theological roadblocks that have prevented unity.

"Division in the life of the church is a contradiction of its very nature," the statement says. "The reasons for seeking unity among the churches are found in the Bible, in tradition and in the imperatives of witness and worldwide mission."

The statement, which caps a 22-year effort, now will be voted upon by each of the participating denominations, which vary greatly in their organizational and theological traditions. Consultation leaders expect consent from the churches, which have a combined membership of 23 million Christians, but they caution against excess optimism.

The churches in the Consultation on Church Union are the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church, the International Council of Community Churches, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ.

Their document envisions the churches' granting full legitimacy to one another's clergy, celebrating the Eucharist together and coordinating the work of the bishops, the presbytery — whose basic role is that of church pastor — and deacons. Those are the churches' three categories of ordained ministry. All the participating churches now ordain women.

The action was praised by leaders from the participating churches as the most decisive step in many years in the movement toward church unity. Ecumenism has been on a sluggish course in recent years and the attainment of a basic accord is considered a significant accomplishment.

"It's a great moment," said the Reverend Gerald Moede, general secretary of the consultation. "After 22 years of work, we have a theological agreement."

A merger of the churches would make the resulting denomination the largest Protestant denomination, ranking far ahead of the Southern Baptist Convention, with about 14 million members. There are approximately 52 million Roman Catholics in the United States.

Adjustments are expected by the churches across the spectrum. Presbyterians who never had bishops are asked to accept the concept of a hierarchy. Methodists who never have required written statements of faith are presented with two historic creeds, the Apostles' and the Nicene, as norms for doctrinal belief in a united church.

Churches with a background that gives congregations great autonomy, such as the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ, would submit to more regional and national forms of church governance.

The vote to recommend the statement to the churches was only the second in the consultation's history and much broader in scope than a vote in 1976, when consultation asked the denominations to recognize one another's members.

Geologists Say Rift May Split North America

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The North American continent is splitting open. A geological rift running north and south through Colorado and New Mexico is widening slowly but surely — by about one millimeter a year.

Geologists watching the process say that millions of years from now a new ocean could form there, as the forces of continental drift drive the eastern two-thirds of what is now the United States away from the western third.

The geological feature, which follows the course of the Rio Grande, has long been known to geologists as a "depression." Only in recent years did they realize it was a rift, caused by a weakening of the Earth's crust, rather than simple erosion in the river bed.

AMERICAN TOPICS



Kevin Brunelle, 18 months old, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, was far from pleased to meet Santa Claus.

Trials by Fury: PR and the Courts

David Henderson represents General William C. Westmoreland, and John Scanlon represents CRS in a libel trial being held in New York. But they are not lawyers. They are public relations men, a relatively new element on the legal scene. They provide the press with documents related to the case, and they spend hours every day in the corridors or on the telephone talking to reporters.

All this has raised questions: Should the opposing sides in a trial be seeking the outside world's approval when the ostensible goal of litigation is to attain justice inside the courtroom? And what is the propriety of the press possibly taking its cues from a paid information officer during a trial?

"I don't find anything improper about it," said David Zucchino, a reporter for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Other reporters have expressed some doubts but no substantive objections. And the legal scholars?

"It's pretty unusual," said Professor Arthur R. Miller of the Harvard Law School. However, he added, "prosecutors have been doing this kind of thing for years. I always have felt very uneasy about a situation in which a lawyer is conducting a satellite trial in the media."

"Both sides," said Professor Geoffrey Hazard of the Yale Law School, "are seeking a public opinion verdict as well as a jury verdict."

Missouri Remembers A Dubious Native Son

The eastern Missouri town of Hannibal is justifiably proud of such natives as Mark Twain, but some citizens had misgivings over the attention given to another native son recently. The New York Times reports.

About 40 people gathered on a hilltop cemetery last month to dedicate a marker the American Civil Liberties Union had

placed on the grave of Clarence Earl Gideon, a drifter and habitual thief whose handwritten note to the Supreme Court led to a ruling 21 years ago that every defendant has a right to legal counsel. Mr. Gideon died in 1972, but his grave had remained unmarked.

Frances Ogden, Mr. Gideon's half-sister, said, "If my mother had wanted a grave marker, she probably would have put one there." Mayor John Lyng made a few appropriate remarks. But Bill Schneider, a former mayor, said later, "I don't believe in honoring someone of his type. He was just an ordinary punk."

Among those on hand was Jim Alexander, who was once robbed by Mr. Gideon at gunpoint. Said Mr. Alexander, "I think the Lord used him to make this point of the law."

Notes About People

President Reagan's victory bells broke up that old gang of Walter Mondale's. Elliot Cutler, one of the defeated Democratic candidate's senior advisers, is returning to his Washington law practice. Marty Kaplan, Mr. Mondale's chief speech writer, said, "I plan to see how long I can stay on vacation." Don Foley is back at work as press secretary to Representative Richard A. Gephardt, Democrat of Missouri. Mr. Cutler said there was no need to worry about those who have no jobs to go back to: "I don't think anyone will be out on the street."

Ed Schwartz, a Philadelphia city councilman, was riding one of the city's trolleys last Monday to see what the average rider has to put up with. He was nudged at a transit stop by two men, one of them with a gun. "When he pointed the gun," Mr. Schwartz recalled, "I said, 'You're dealing with a city councilman. Are you sure you want to go through with this?' The effect of that was it made no difference. He put the gun to my left cheekbone." The men took his wallet containing \$30.

—ARTHUR HIGBEE

Drug, in Test, Reversed Some Balding

By Sandra Saperstein

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A dermatologist at the Washington Hospital Center here has offered new hope to balding people, announcing positive test results on a drug to fight the condition that strikes half the male population by age 50.

A yearlong test of the drug, minoxidil, showed a "cosmetically satisfactory response" in nearly a third of the 96 patients who used it, the dermatologist, Dr. Thomas Nigra, said Friday. He said the drug treatment doubled the number of hairs growing in target areas on 27 of the tested heads. No one, he said, experienced any hair loss.

At a press conference, Dr. Nigra cautioned that the drug "is a therapy, not a cure. You must continue to use it or your hair will fall out." The drug is also expensive, with a year's supply costing about \$1,000.

Dr. Nigra added that tests are still under way across the country. A spokesman for the drug's manufacturer, Upjohn Co., said the drug could not be on the market before 1987. Results must be analyzed and approval of the federal Food and Drug Administration usually takes two years.

A spokesman for the hospital said the drug, in a lotion that is rubbed into the scalp, can be used to fight "pattern baldness," the most common type. It is believed to be hereditary and is characterized by a receding hairline and loss of hair at the crown, said the spokesman, Donna Arbogast.

Patients must have some fine hairs growing in the balding areas for the drug to work, he said. Minoxidil, marketed under the name Loniten, is currently used to treat high blood pressure. As is the case with many new drugs, researchers discovered it had certain side effects — on some people it grew unwanted hair. That led to experiments at 28 locations across the United States.

Of the 91 men and five women who took part in the test, 81 showed some increase in the number of hairs in the target areas, a spot one inch (2.5 centimeters) across on their scalps, said Mrs. Arbogast. Nine of the subjects developed side effects, including burning or redness of the scalp, and had to drop out.

Nicaragua Talks Are Suspended

Reuters

MANAGUA — Talks between Nicaragua's ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front and 33 political, labor, church and business groups have been suspended indefinitely, a spokesman for the negotiations, Carlos Lucas, has announced.

Negotiators said the Popular Social Christian Party, one of four members of the opposition Democratic Coordinator alliance, had insisted that agreements reached in the talks have the force of law, while the Sandinistas said this would negate the functions of the Constituent Assembly elected Nov. 4 and dominated by them.

A Sandinista statement said the talks broke down Friday "due to the refusal of rightist political parties and private enterprise business groups to recognize the United States as the principal aggressor against Nicaragua."

U.S. Carrier Is Sent to Aid Ship Off Cuba

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The United States sent the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz to aid a navy-chartered ship that drifted into Cuban waters. A senior Defense Department official said the action was taken because of concern that the Cubans might try to seize the ship for political purposes.

The Seaward Explorer, which had been chartered by the navy for mapping purposes, drifted into Cuban territorial waters early Friday. The 90,000-ton Nimitz, on a port call at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, was ordered to sea so quickly Friday morning that about 1,000 of 5,200 crew members were left behind, Pentagon officials said.

The decision to send the Nimitz and an escort ship, the nuclear-powered cruiser Arkansas, to sea was made when the Cuban authorities told the State Department that a Cuban boat might take the disabled U.S. ship to a Cuban port for repairs, a State Department official said Saturday.

"We did not want the Cubans to take that ship," the senior Pentagon official said. "The Cubans might have tried to make a political show of the whole thing and hold the crew and ship. We did not want that to happen. So we sent the Nimitz because its planes could get to the scene."

Before the Nimitz arrived, the Coast Guard cutter Reliance, on station in the area, towed the Seaward Explorer out of Cuban waters.

The State Department tried to treat the matter routinely Saturday. It said in a statement that "we thanked the Cubans for their offer of assistance."

Laos Said to Bar U.S. Aide

Agence France-Press

BANGKOK — Laos has asked the United States to withdraw a low-ranking diplomat from the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, diplomatic sources in Bangkok and Hanoi said Saturday.

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U.S. Will Press Pinochet On Vote as Way to Avert 'Another Nicaragua'

By Bernard Gwertzman

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration has concluded that the United States should make a maximum effort to prevent Chile from turning into "another Nicaragua," according to administration officials.

The officials, in interviews on Saturday and earlier last week, said that the developments in Chile, including the state of siege declared Nov. 6 by President Augusto Pinochet, had produced serious concern throughout the administration.

They said that there was a consensus after a monthlong review of the situation to try to bring about mediation that could hasten a transition to democracy in Chile. The mediator, they said, might possibly be the Vatican, other Latin American countries or even the United States.

The United States has few ways to bring pressure on Chile, the officials said. There is no U.S. economic or military aid program to Chile because of its past human rights record, although the Reagan administration has gone to some lengths to establish a working relationship with General Pinochet.

Jean J. Kirkpatrick, the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, visited Chile and met with General Pinochet. So did Vernon A. Walters, the American ambassador-at-large.

Under the constitution approved in 1980, General Pinochet would rule until 1989, when a process to ward elections could begin, but he could be named to serve even after 1990. The democratic opposition has been pressing for an earlier move to elections and an immediate end to his rule.

The administration officials said the review in Washington had been frustrating. As reasons, they cited what appear to be uncompromising attitudes taken both by General Pinochet, whose increased use of repression has lost him support

from civilian conservatives, and by the civilian opposition parties, who cannot agree on a program beyond demands for the president's resignation.

"A pox-on-both-your-houses view developed," one official said. "We decided that both are to blame, and one thing we're not going to do is just wait Pinochet on the head. That won't do it."

As a result of the review, which involved the White House, the State Department, the Defense Department, the Treasury Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, the officials said there was a consensus not to appear to take sides in Chile. Instead, there was sentiment for putting maximum pressure on the Chilean government and the opposition to show flexibility and end what seems to be a worsening situation.

The U.S. goal, officials said, is to get the military and civilians in Chile to realize that the growing split only helps the radical left, including the Moscow-aligned Communist Party, and could make Chile what several officials called "another Nicaragua," ruled by a leftist group similar to the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

General Pinochet, in declaring the state of siege and in retreating from promises to encourage talks with the opposition, has asserted that he has done so to crush communist terrorist efforts to bring about anarchy. He has pointed to several hundred bombings and other terrorist acts as evidence of his concern.

According to administration officials, the United States agrees with General Pinochet that the Soviet Union and Cuba are helping to finance and train subversives who have been infiltrated into Chile in recent years, and that terrorism is a genuine threat.

But they said they disagreed with what they regarded as excessive use of force by the 69-year-old general and his seeming refusal, despite assertions of wanting a return to democracy, to give up power.

As a result of the review, the administration decided to increase high-level contacts with Chileans in the government and in the opposition to try to bring about compromise.

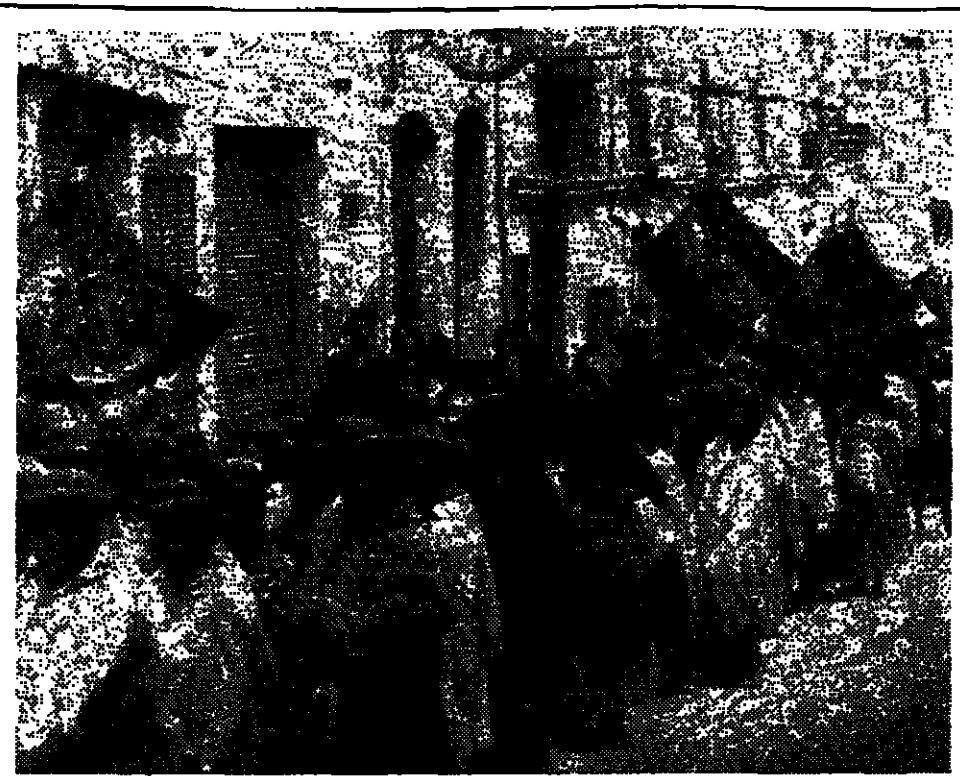
A senior State Department official, James H. Michel, principal deputy assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, arrived in Santiago on Friday. He met with General Pinochet, who is the chief of staff to General Pinochet, and had lunch with political opposition leaders.

"His message was that we want them to take some constructive steps to help themselves before it is too late for us to help them," a State Department official said. "We told them that we're not laying blame for the impasse on anyone. It is shared all around."

Chile to Draft Women
Chile's government has ordered women drafted into the armed forces as part of an extraordinary call-up of conscripts and reservists to help fight terrorism and political unrest, The Associated Press reported from Santiago.

The move Saturday to expand the military followed a week of anti-government protests that were contained by army patrols reinforcing police in major cities.

A decree published Saturday in the Official Bulletin said men and women born in 1965 would be drafted immediately for two years of service in the army, navy and air force.



BOLIVIANS ON STRIKE — Indian peddlers demonstrated in La Paz during a nationwide general strike. Bolivia's labor movement continued to press its demands for price controls and wage increases to counter the country's 1,500-percent inflation rate.

In Latin America, 8 Democracies Signal Tilt Away From Military Rule

By Alan Riding

New York Times Service

RIO DE JANEIRO — In the late 1970s, 13 of Latin America's 20 republics were governed by generals. Haiti was ruled by a family dynasty and a Communist dictator was in power in Cuba. Democracy seemed headed for extinction.

On Nov. 25, Uruguay became the eighth Latin American country since 1980 to elect a civilian president and Brazil and Guatemala are expected to follow suit next year. Now only Chile, Paraguay and Haiti are firmly in the grip of rightist dictators.

The Reagan administration has claimed partial credit for this turnaround. Since the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada last year, no civilian government has been deposed in the region during the president's first term. Vice President George Bush has attended the inaugurations of a succession of newly elected governments.

Also, during the past two years the United States has blocked coups planned by army officers in El Salvador, Honduras and Bolivia. In several cases the impetus for civilian rule was provided by President Jimmy Carter's human rights policy. In others, military regimes preferred that civilians deal with acute economic crises. In Argentina, the army was defeated both politically and militarily in the Falkland Islands war with Britain.

Further, the "new democracies" demonstrate the cyclical nature of Latin American politics. Only a few countries — notably Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia and Venezuela — have democratic institutions with proved resilience. In several nations, the army hovers in the background, viewed as a "solution" of last resort.

Already, in Peru, one of the first of the new group of democracies, a surge of leftist insurgency has drawn the armed forces into politics anew.

In many cases, the democracies that began tumbling after the 1964 coup in Brazil had themselves replaced dictators. But they failed to withstand the pressure for change posed by leftist guerrillas.

The resulting disarray was such that military takeovers were usually welcomed. In some cases, armies

promised to crush guerrillas, restore order and stimulate growth, objectives they achieved over the short term. By 1976, all eight countries south of Colombia and Venezuela had a general in the palace.

What distinguished this state of authoritarianism was that military institutions rather than old-style dictators were in power. Only President Augusto Pinochet of Chile kept alive the tradition of Nicaragua's Somoza family, Cuba's Fulgencio Batista and the Dominican Republic's Rafael Leonidas Trujillo.

A turning point came when Pres-

NEWS ANALYSIS

ident Carter began criticizing human rights abuses by the region's dictators. The first result was a souring of their relations with Washington. But, during Mr. Carter's administration, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Bolivia and Brazil took steps toward civilian rule.

U.S. pressure was not the only factor. In many countries, military regimes had lost their initial popularity. Leftist guerrilla movements had been dismantled, eliminating the "need" for suspension of political rights. Corruption, an oft-cited reason for coups, also had blossomed, as army officers reaped the harvests of heavy government spending.

Finally, the sudden increase in interest rates and the suspension of new credits after Mexico's 1982 financial slump thrust the entire region into its deepest economic crisis since the 1930s.

Since 1980, in rapid succession, the military regimes in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Honduras, Argentina, El Salvador, Panama and now Uruguay have all called elections, while those of Brazil and Guatemala will do so next year.

Most switches to civilian rule have taken place during the Reagan administration. Washington's interest, however, has focused on Central America, where elections have helped isolate El Salvador's guerrillas. In contrast, the United States has applied little pressure on Chile or Paraguay to call free elections.

The idea of democracy is nevertheless infectious, with the example

At UNESCO, Some Talk of M'Bow Being Replaced

By Paul Lewis

New York Times Service

PARIS — Some Western delegates to UNESCO say the possibility of replacing the agency's director-general, Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, is being discussed by several member governments.

The delegates say they believe that finding a new director could offer the best way of resolving the crisis at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and of convincing the United States to return if, as expected, it withdraws from UNESCO at the end of the year.

The members of the European Community are to make a final appeal soon to the Reagan administration to remain in UNESCO for another year and work for changes in the policy and administration of the agency. The United States has charged that the agency has an anti-Western bias and is badly managed.

Britain, which has announced plans to leave UNESCO in a year unless there are changes beyond those already made, warned its partners that an appeal to the United States would be futile unless other European nations threaten to leave in 1985 as well.

The Western delegates argue that UNESCO has made progress this year toward improving efficiency and shedding ideologically biased activities.

Under a new director-general enjoying the confidence of the Western members, they say, UNESCO could quickly agree to enough additional policy changes to satisfy Britain and return the United States to full membership.

Some African and other Third World nations also appear to be distancing themselves from Mr. M'Bow, who has said he will not resign before the end of his term in 1987.

Immediately after Britain announced its intention in mid-November to give the required year's notice before quitting, sources in the agency's secretariat said Mr. M'Bow, who comes from Senegal, asked for and received a public vote of confidence from the organization's African members.

But he was not given a similar show of support that he requested from the Latin American and Asian members.

Secretariat sources say that, despite the African vote of confidence, several African delegates have privately warned the director-general that he may not be able to serve out all of his term.

French officials have sounded out U.S. officials about whether the United States would reconsider its decision to leave if another director-general could be found in whom it had more confidence.

Possible successors mentioned by these French officials include Kenneth K.S. Dadzie of Ghana, a former UN director-general for international economic affairs; Tommy T.B. Koh, Singapore's ambassador in Washington and former chairman of the Law of the Sea Conference; Mirella Pastreana Borero, a former president of Colombia; and Pierre Elliott Trudeau, a former prime minister of Canada.

Others mentioned in Western circles are Yasushi Akashi of Japan, the UN undersecretary-general for public information; Malcolm Fraser, a former prime of Australia; and Dr. Rolf Dahrendorf of West Germany.

DOONESBURY



Prince Hubertus Löwenstein, Anti-Nazi Leader, Is Dead

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Prince Hubertus zu Löwenstein-Wertheim-Freudenberg, 78, a German historian and political figure who was an early opponent of Hitler and, as a refugee, helped arouse Americans against Nazism, died Wednesday in Bonn of heart failure.

A member of the West German parliament in the 1950s, he wrote more than 40 books, including "The Germans in History" (1945) and "NATO and the Defense of the West" (1962). He also was a prominent Roman Catholic layman and was decorated by Pope John XXIII for work toward reconciliation between the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches.

Constantine Aslanidis, 64, one of the leaders of the 1967 military coup that governed Greece until 1974, Thursday of cancer in Athens.

CIA Chief's Nicaragua Role Reported

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senior officials of the Central Intelligence Agency, including its director, William J. Casey, decided at a mid-1983 meeting to provide Nicaraguan rebels with psychological warfare training, a step that led to the writing of a manual advising how to carry out assassinations and other violence, according to U.S. government officials.

The officials, who spoke on the condition they not be identified, said the role of Mr. Casey and other top officers is not cited in a still-secret CIA inspector general's report that urged disciplining six mid-level agency officials.

The officials said there was no evidence that Mr. Casey and other top CIA officers had approved the manual, which advised the rebels on "selective use of violence."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 4)

Everywhere one traveled in Nicaragua just prior to the election, huge posters advertised these and other political parties. It is interesting to note that the Sandinista Front (FSLN) competed with at least two parties to the left of itself and is not supported by the Soviet Union.

The government of Nicaragua is struggling mightily against overwhelming, often hidden enemies. That the Nov. 4 elections were not postponed is a measure of the confidence it has that it is a legitimate government of, by and for the people. Imagine if the United States postponed its elections because a minority party dropped out.

The Reverend CRAIG BIDDLE, Washington.

The editorial presents a distorted view of the situation. The Nicaraguan government arranged to hold elections sooner than scheduled because of U.S. pressure to do so, and it went to great lengths to establish a democratic electoral procedure. The Council of State sent delegations to 15 nations, including the United States, to study and learn from their electoral procedures. Experts in international law have assured Nicaragua that theirs is one of the most just and democratic electoral laws ever written.

To argue absurdly that the electoral process is meaningless because several parties refused to participate is to ignore the government's carefully crafted procedure. Why is it that the six parties that participated, as well as all the Nicaraguan people with whom I talked, view these elections as democratic?

But it is the editorial's analysis of Nicaragua's military situation that is the most dangerously misleading. Nicaragua is not engaged in "civil war," but is being attacked along its borders by forces drawn from

the late General Somoza's National Guard, organized and financed by the CIA. To say that "American pressure" has moderated "Sandinista militancy" is to reverse the truth: Increasingly, Nicaragua's people have been forced to fight at the borders because of U.S. support for the contras.

NAOMI THIERS, Washington.

Language and Insight

In response to the report "After Years of Decline, Foreign Language Study Revives in U.S." (Oct. 31):

It is the responsibility of any nation, but particularly one with the power of the United States, to be well-informed about the rest of the world. The lack of interest in foreign languages among Americans has therefore always been deplorable, and it is heartening to read that things now are changing.

Central America is a case in point, where it is obviously difficult to understand a complex situation. If more North Americans spoke Spanish, the possibilities of under-

standing Central America in its own terms, rather than in U.S. terms, would increase. It would be easier to show the world that the United States is interested in Central America as Central America, not just as a U.S. backyard.

PETER ADLER, Stockholm.

On Trudeau on NATO

In response to the report "Trudeau Asserts NATO Skirts Issues" (Nov. 15) by Don Oberdorfer:

Any large alliance of free governments is difficult to keep on track toward a common objective. Is it not enough to decide on this common objective and then debate the best way to get there? The members of the alliance must be able to discuss the objective and paths toward it without degenerating to the more esoteric and obviously more debatable issues of war and peace. These debatable issues are obviously attractive to a parliamentarian of Pierre Elliott Trudeau's stature, especially one who has a genuine personal desire to reduce the risk of

war in the world. But such debate risks swamping the goal.

Mr. Trudeau brushes aside discussions of weapons uniformity and increases in national spending. He implies that these issues are unworthy of summit consideration. But such issues are of critical economic and political importance to the member nations and essential to the effectiveness of the alliance.

When the Carter administration initiated the Long Term Defense Program under the guidance of Special Ambassador Robert Komer, the Canadians were no more willing than the other governments to approve the increased spending required. In fact, a review of Canadian military participation in NATO under Mr. Trudeau's leadership will show decreases.

If such matters as a 3-percent increase cannot be achieved with NATO, what does an individual

leader seek to achieve by raising broader and more divisive issues?

IRWIN PATTON GRAHAM, Riyadh.

Romagna, Not Umbria

Regarding "Visitors to Open Two Exhibit Rooms" (Nov. 24):

Melozzo Da Forlì was not an Umbrian artist. He was from Forlì, in Romagna, and was the leading artist of the "School of Romagna."

REMIGIO GRILLO, Paris.

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SAUDI ARABIA

A SPECIAL ECONOMIC REPORT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1984

Page 7

Caution Pervades Banking Sector

By Kevin Muching

LONDON — Few people question the severity of the liquidity squeeze in Saudi Arabia. For many in the kingdom's business community, short-term credits from commercial banks are crucial to winning some breathing space.

But there are increasing grumblings from the business community and some government quarters that the banks are far too gun-shy about extending fresh credits and thus are not playing their proper role in a developing economy.

Bankers have never been popular during economic downturns, as they tend to be the least generous or sympathetic when they are needed the most, but this is the nature of the credit market. The problem is especially acute in Saudi Arabia because it comes when so many newer Saudi companies — often undercapitalized and lacking management depth — as well as some bigger companies, are trying to restructure and adapt to a post-boom environment. Credit is often all that stands between them and insolvency next year.

The neighborhood banker in Jeddah or Riyadh will say that he is anxious to book new loans to rejuvenate a faltering income stream. There are revised projections at several banks of a 30-percent or larger fall in profit this year from last year's levels. Furthermore, there is plenty of money to go around: The consolidated ratio of loans to deposits held by the country's 11 commercial banks was barely 55 percent by the end of the pilgrimage season in late September. This marks the traditional start of the business cycle, when lending would ordinarily pick up. This year, it has not.

The reason is a perception (Continued on Page 9)



Student at Jeddah's King Abdul Aziz University.



The Al Hasa Oasis, above, and harvesting Saudi wheat, below.



Planners Keep Eye on the Target: Industrialization

By Robert Holloway

RIYADH — Oilmen in Saudi Arabia like to tell the story of the foreign company that began drilling for fresh water for an industrial plant in Eastern province and at its first attempt struck crude oil that it did not need and could not use. However apocryphal, the tale is not implausible.

Since it became the world's leading oil exporter in the early 1970s, the kingdom has discovered more than three times as much crude as it has produced. According to government statistics, proven reserves of petroleum at the end of last year topped 166 billion barrels, one quarter of the world's total.

That fact dominates Saudi relations with the major U.S. and West European oil companies, which are playing an important part in the country's industrial development, in

some cases helping set up competition for operations they have in other parts of the world.

Many oil exporters, including some members of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, are likely to become importers by the turn of the century. But, even if not one drop more of petroleum were discovered, Saudi reserves would last for 56 years at the high average rate of output that has existed since the first major OPEC price increase in 1973-1974.

As the Riyadh representative of one oil major put it: "Once you have an entire here you do all that you can to maintain it. The world is oversupplied with oil right now, but you go on lifting more Saudi crude than you need, or you cheerfully pay the contractual penalties for underlifting, because you are going to need that entire the day when these are the only people left exporting oil."

That is, of course, overstating the case. Much more important, from the Saudi point of view, is the participation of the oil majors in developing the "downstream" side of the industry: refining and petrochemicals.

Mobil and Shell have helped set up export refineries, each with a capacity of 250,000 barrels a day, the former in the Red Sea port of Yanbu, the latter in Jubail on the Gulf coast. Mobil, Shell, Exxon, Celanese-Texas Eastern and a number of Japanese, Taiwanese and South Korean companies are involved in petrochemical joint ventures.

The Saudis resent the view — held by some other Arabs as well as those in the industrialized world — that theirs is essentially a backward nation made fabulously wealthy by a geological freak of nature. They regard the creation of

(Continued on Next Page)

Oil Price Slump Brings Economy 'Back to Normal'

By Alan Mackie

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia could face difficulties in financing its budget deficit this year because of the continued, prolonged slump in the oil market. But the problem is hardly the kind that most countries face when running out of cash: the financial embarrassment will be strictly temporary.

Sitting on a quarter of the world's known oil reserves — oil is being found at a faster rate than it is being depleted — Saudi Arabia, in all likelihood, will be producing long after its Gulf neighbors have pumped their wells dry. It is a measure of the economy's intrinsic strength and of the basic soundness of the government's policies that it has taken this long for the prolonged squeeze to catch up with the kingdom's phenomenal spending boom.

Still, the underlying softness in oil prices is worrying, and the shortfall in revenue especially so, coming, as it has, at the tail end of the development cycle. The economy is slowing back down to "normal" speed, and a potentially difficult and bumpy patch could have been expected now in any case.

The prognosis for oil prices is not good. Hopes earlier this year that a gradual improvement in world demand would support the \$29-a-barrel market price for Saudi crude, which was agreed upon in March 1983 by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, were upset by the market's nervous reaction to the oil barker deal negotiated by the government for 10 Boeing 747s, and by the autumn price cuts triggered by Norway.

OPEC's meeting in Geneva the end of October showed what strains the organization is under — especially Saudi Arabia, as swing producer — to keep present price levels intact. Demand could pick

up over the winter but stocks are at a record level and the kingdom's new implied production quota of 4.353 million barrels a day (4.1 million if temporary production agreements with Nigeria are included) means there is little chance of offsetting the dismal average production level of about 4.3 million barrels a day so far in the fiscal year that began in April.

For the full year production is unlikely to exceed 4.4 million barrels a day, leaving a 1.5-million-barrel-a-day shortfall on budgeted oil export sales. The planners face the possibility — assuming Saudi Arabia continues to underpin OPEC — of continued depressed production levels. Furthermore, every month brings closer a resolution of the Gulf war, which could tear OPEC's fragile unity apart by releasing a flood of extra production. Consequently, the fourth five-year plan, due in March, has been sent back to the drawing board to be scaled down.

The immediate problem facing the kingdom's financial managers is how to adjust for a possible shortfall of 50 billion riyals in oil revenue. Overall, the shortfall including investment income and nonoil revenue could be as high as 60 billion. Saudi budgeting is always extremely conservative, but it will be well-nigh impossible to achieve this order of savings from expenditure. Capital expenditure is the obvious candidate for pruning, especially as most projects pending fall in the second half of the year. But if authorities cut project spending much more, it could turn what they see as a healthy shakeout into a collapse that could lead to a string of bankruptcies.

On the other hand, if expenditures are not reduced, the actual deficit could be as high as 70 billion (Continued on Next Page)

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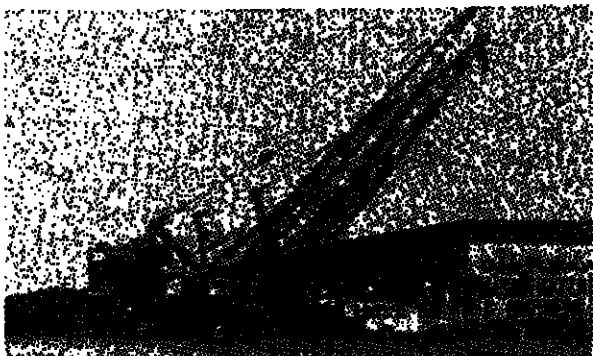
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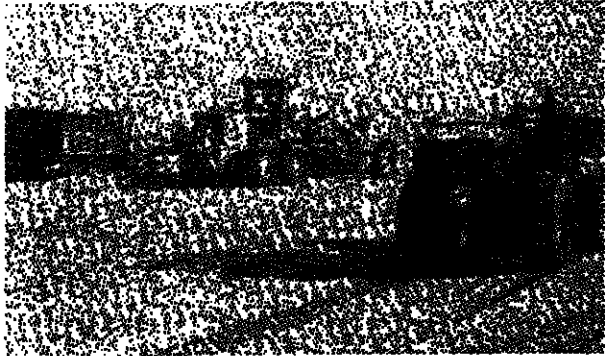
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A SPECIAL REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA



The National Guard Hospital at Jeddah.

Slump Brings Economy 'Back to Normal'

(Continued From Previous Page)

rials against 45.9 billion projected in the budget. This would have to be made up from reserves. According to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, the government drew down \$17 billion (51 billion riyals) in calendar 1983. It could have to draw down a further \$25 billion this year. This rate of drawdown cannot be sustained for long. The authorities could have to look elsewhere for temporary financing until spending settles at a lower level or the oil market picks up.

The minister of finance and national economy, Mohammed Abalkhail, hopes to minimize the deficit by cutting spending, but he concedes that this is not always easy. He also hopes for greater non-oil revenues.

The prolonged budget squeeze has accentuated the kingdom's diversification out of oil and its need to look for other sources of revenue. In 1982-1983 nonoil activities accounted for more than 50 percent of the gross domestic product for the first time. This year, as the oil sector has declined further, the figure could rise to 55 percent or higher. Gross domestic product is expected to fall again; in 1983, it dropped 8 percent to \$115 billion.

Saudi imports are changing, and if barley imports had not doubled to six million tons last year because of the lack of rain, total imports would be down. The latest import figure, for 1982-1983, was 133 billion riyals. The trading sector was the first to feel the slowdown. The construction industry particularly suffered because it expanded well beyond the country's long-term needs. Now the slowdown is ex-

tending. Banking profits are sharply lower, and sectors such as mining, industry and agriculture are beginning to be affected.

The commissioning of petrochemical plants at Jubail and Yanbu in the next two years will have a dramatic impact, raising the domestic component of consumption from 15 percent to more than 20 percent. The shakeout has intensified the trend to greater "Saudiization," and foreign companies are being encouraged to enter joint ventures.

As the private sector is left to stand on its own feet, the crucial question is how well it will fare and whether the government will have the nerve to let the shakeout take its course. The official view, expressed by Mr. Abalkhail, is that the private sector has made more than enough profit to cushion it through the lean times ahead. The government, it is felt, has fulfilled its obligations in creating the physical and financial infrastructure for the private sector to take over.

Whether the credit institutions are in place to take up the strain of lending is debatable. The banks have been criticized for not being more adventurous in lending in the medium term. The downturn has left them with bad and doubtful debts that do not dispose them to take risks.

The banks' shaky legal basis under Islamic law makes them doubly cautious. The question of whether banks should be allowed to accept mortgages as collateral is being reviewed by the *ulema*, or religious scholars, and the Commerce Ministry has set up a special unit to consider the equally difficult ques-

tion of insurance, which, like usury, is forbidden under Islamic law. The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency's decision to issue Treasury bills earlier this year was an important development, but does not signal a general breakthrough on the interest question.

Another aspect of restructuring, which is particularly relevant to the vexing question of delayed payments, is the development of the administration's procedures and management. Part of the process of rationalizing expenditures has been closer review of tendering, contract awards and performance schedules. Putting untried systems into effect with untried staff was bound to create bottlenecks and delays, although payment delays have been used as a way of regulating government expenditure as well.

With the new procedures in place and working reasonably well, payments are becoming more regular. Perhaps the most important restructuring is being forced on the government by the severity of the financial squeeze and the paramount need to find savings.

The introduction of open tendering was a crucial first step in this process, but events now could be forcing other equally salutary changes.

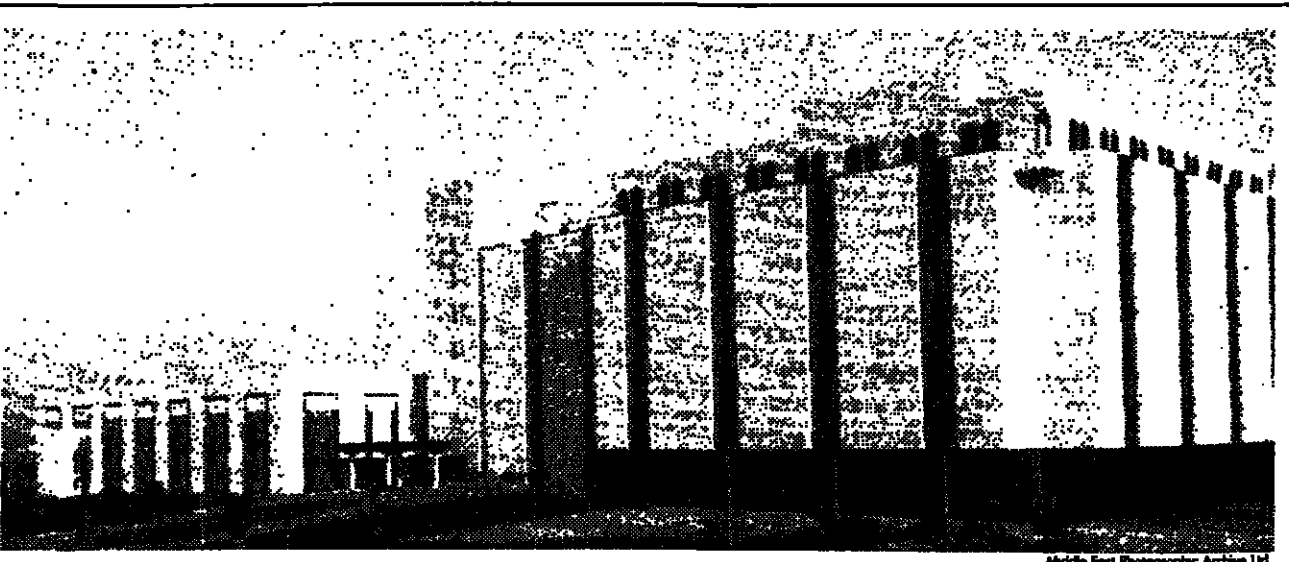
Saudi Arabia's physical transformation in the last 10 years has been one of the modern wonders of the world. But there has, inevitably, been waste. Rows and rows of deserted apartment blocks in Jeddah and Riyadh, built at vast and unnecessary expense, attest to the faddish nature of some development. Similarly, wheat self-sufficiency

has been won at enormous cost — both in subsidies to big business (which has often recouped its investment in 12 to 18 months), and in use of the kingdom's most precious resource, water — and has been of arguable value in settling Saudi Arabia's tribes.

Subsidies touch at the heart of the political/economic debate. They perform a useful social function in spreading wealth, so the broad package of subsidies will be maintained with only marginal changes. The recent rise in local gasoline prices to about a fifth of international levels is an example of the careful pruning that can be expected. But can and should the wealthy continue to be subsidized?

Observers will be watching the government's handling of the wheat subsidy for clues. More than two years ago, Mr. Abalkhail and the former minister of industry and electricity, Ghazi al-Gosaibi, failed to win cabinet approval for a package of subsidy cuts, but times have changed. One Saudi businessman said: "They have to do something about it (the wheat subsidy), and they will. Large farmers have not been paid the subsidy for last year's harvest and small farmers have only been paid 30 percent."

The financial squeeze, by identifying the vital importance of technology transfer and good management, has opened up unprecedented opportunities for building a solid base for Saudi Arabia's diversification out of oil. The technocrats in the government are well aware of the opportunities. It now depends on their political leaders whether the opportunities are seized.



The King Khalid Eye Specialist hospital in Riyadh.

Planners Keep Eye on Target: Industrialization

(Continued From Previous Page)

technologically advanced industries as a means of providing jobs and training for young Saudis in skills hitherto confined chiefly to the developed nations.

They also hope that these industries will begin to make the country more self-reliant and independent. Most Westerners remember the late King Faisal as the man who unshackled the oil weapon; few realize that, even today, well over four-fifths of Saudi Arabia's non-military imports come from the United States, Western Europe and Japan and that the total value of these, about \$33 billion in 1982, corresponds to more than half the kingdom's nonoil gross domestic product. For military supplies, the Saudi rely almost exclusively upon a handful of Western nations.

The cornerstone of industrial development is the Saudi Basic Industries Corp., or SABIC, which since its incorporation in 1976, has set up seven joint ventures and one wholly owned project in petrochemicals, two iron and steel companies, an industrial gas company and a joint venture in plastics. Five of these are operating and the others will start by the end of next year.

SABIC, which has capital of 10

billion riyals and has so far invested about 38 billion riyals in its projects, has started to go public and has sold 30 percent of its shares; demand was so high for the first issues that the government, despite its commitment to private enterprise and ultimate goal of relinquishing 75 percent of its control, does not plan to issue more shares before the end of 1985.

"Ours is a step-by-step philosophy," said SABIC's vice president and managing director, Ibrahim bin Salamah.

All the petrochemical plants use methane, ethane or ethylene (a derivative of ethane) as feedstock and it was initially planned to supply them with the "associated" gases that are a byproduct of crude oil production.

But because of long-term conservation policies that the industrialized nations began after the 1974-1974 OPEC price rises and the recession that followed the 1979-1980 price rises, Saudi oil output slumped from an average of 9.9 million barrels a day in the peak year, 1980, to little more than 5 million barrels a day last year. There was a corresponding drop in associated gas yields, which resulted early last year in widespread

electricity failures in Eastern province.

Public utilities have a prior claim on natural gas supplies, and a \$20-billion gas-gathering plan was rapidly put into effect, tapping the country's vast "dry," or nonassociated, gas fields; directors of SABIC projects say they no longer fear shortages in gas supplies.

The industrialization program has not been without its headaches. World demand for petrochemicals has slumped because of the recession and a number of European manufacturers have had to close. The huge Saudi plants due to start commercial production over the coming year will not find it easy to acquire markets, and accusations of protectionism are being thrown at the European Community.

SABIC has completed its first-generation, export-oriented plants and from now on is likely to embark solely upon small, local projects such as the manufacture of plastic pipes, taking private Saudi companies as partners.

There is no denying that Saudi Arabia has made considerable strides in the last decade toward becoming an industrialized nation. But sales of crude oil still dominate the economy, providing about \$38 billion in the last fiscal year toward

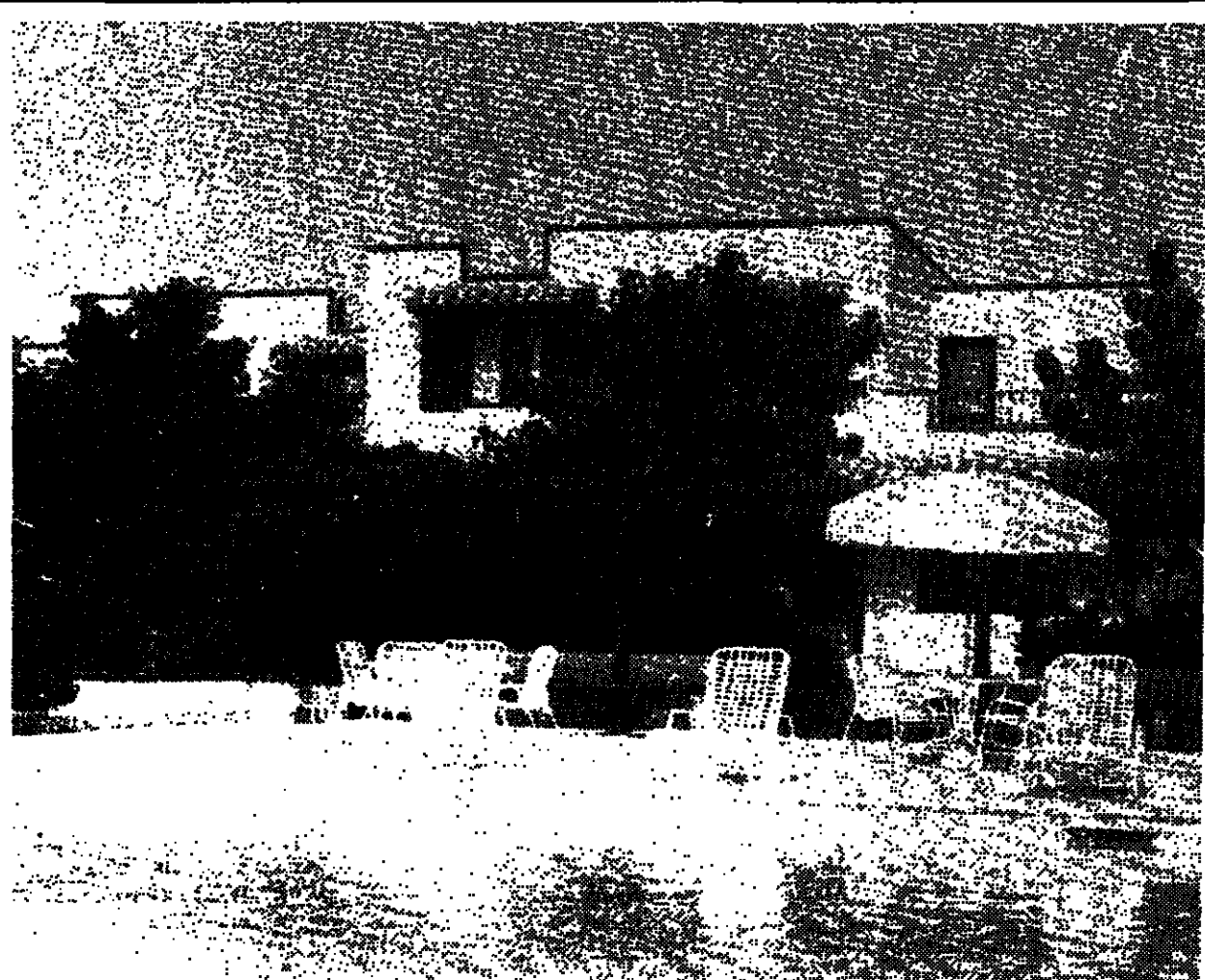
the total government revenue of \$34 billion.

Last year's oil production was the lowest since 1970, when it first topped three million barrels per day, while the average price of Saudi crude, now \$27.55 a barrel, is more than 17 percent lower than it was two years ago.

Few, if any, people believe the kingdom can meet its budget targets, or even come anywhere near doing so this year. The result will almost certainly be further cutbacks on industrial project spending.

Some would argue that this is no bad thing, provided it does not last indefinitely. "In the past," an observer in Riyadh of the Saudi economy said, "the economy was characterized by revenues that were systematically higher than forecast. Ministries found it quite difficult at times to actually spend the money they were allocated. Today, the reverse is true. One consequence is that the Finance Ministry is getting a tighter control. There is more serious approach to planning, and targets have to be met."

The fourth five-year development plan, which is due to begin March 22, is being revised to take account of lower projected oil output, sources say.



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QUALITY HAS COME TO STAY



Checking in at the International Terminal at Riyadh Airport, left; at right, inside the new King Khaled International Airport.



Middle East Photographic Archive Ltd.

Development Bringing Change to Dammam and Eastern Province's Industry

DAMMAM — The Eastern Province has a very different feel from Riyadh or Jeddah. The scale and proportions of Dammam, the main regional center, are those of a small Gulf trading post that made its mark in the 1950s and early 1960s. Few buildings rise above four stories and there is an absence of the marble and fine stone that are the hallmarks of Riyadh's princely office blocks.

Traditionally, Eastern Province, where the majority of the kingdom's Shiite population resides, has been left to its own devices, very much the poor stepchild of the Nejd and the Hejaz regions when it comes to sharing out the state revenue, even though the kingdom's wealth derives from Eastern oil fields.

This changed after the disturbances that followed the November 1979 siege of the Grand Mosque in Mecca. Development funds have been more liberal since. A network of superhighways, a sports stadium and a new regional government complex (to house the court, which is to reside in Dammam for two months of the year, as it does in Taif each summer) attest to the spreading of the largesse.

In addition, the province boasts the new industrial city of Jubail, and within the next three years will have an airport to match Riyadh and Jeddah.

Yet the local economy remains surprisingly regional, geared to Aramco's fortunes and the Gulf rather than the rest of the kingdom. Aramco has been a focal point of industrial development both as a

major customer of local industry — which it has nurtured through offering a 7- to 15-percent price advantage over foreign competition, providing the specifications and quality are right — and through its Local Industry Development Department, which has performed an invaluable service in nursing industrial development.

However, it is the local merchant families that have provided the backbone of investment, vying with one another like Renaissance princes to produce the biggest and the best.

The most diversified are the al-Zamil group of companies, controlled by about 10 brothers, who are mostly Western-educated and still in their 30s and 40s. The family hires Western expertise to set up plants but then tends to buy out its partners.

In contrast, the Rashids, perhaps because of their princely connections, take a far more patrician attitude to their operations. "The Rashids would not be interested in an SIFD loan except for fine tuning," one market observer commented, referring to the Saudi Industrial Development Fund. The Rashids prefer to invest in joint ventures and hire young, aggressive Western management to run them. Their business activities are heavily geared to Aramco.

The four or five Kanoo brothers prefer to leave the running of their business interests, still firmly based in the travel business and in trade, to British managers. They favor joint ventures but like to retain control. The al-Gosaibi group —

facing a potential succession problem with the brothers Abdul Aziz and Ahmad now in their 60s and with no young family members coming up through the ranks — tend to have non-Western management. They run a mix of joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries.

The al-Qahtani group, controlled by Abdul Hadi and his three sons, are principally known for their pipe-coating subsidiary, one of the most impressive all-Saudi operations in the kingdom. Situated on two sites in Dammam with a total area of more than one million square meters, the Qahtani pipe-coating terminal can treat 4,400 kilometers of pipe a year, which makes it probably the biggest operation of its kind in the world.

Like other oil-service industries, Qahtani has felt the recession. Its production is down to 40 percent of capacity from a peak 60 percent. However, the company's unrivaled reputation for quality ensures it a steady stream of work, not only for the new east-west crude pipeline

but for product pipelines and piping in refineries at the Jubail petrochemical complex and rigs. Baroid Petroleum Services is similarly affected by Aramco's halving the number of drilling contracts this year. It produces drilling muds, chemicals and drilling fluids. Aramco deals exclusively with the company and one competitor that each have a half share in the market. Water drilling has offered some scope for additional sales.

A stone's throw across from Bar-

oid in the Dammam industrial estate is Saudi Arabia's only aluminum extrusion company. Alupco is trying to rationalize production, update equipment and bring in more automation in an effort to protect margins under threat from foreign products and a slowdown in market growth to about 3 percent a year. The company is also trying to create alternative runs for its extrusion plants and is diversifying product lines, producing aluminum lamp posts and guard rails.

Al-Zamil Refrigeration Industries has been going through a similar process of rationalization and consolidation. Demand for air conditioners has leveled off and may have declined slightly, said the director, Adeed al-Zamil. But the growth rate is expected to pick up again in the next two to three years. Al-Zamil Refrigeration is the only company in the kingdom producing central air conditioners and room conditioners as well as room conditioners, and it is using its expertise to develop chilled-water systems and fan coolers. Al-Zamil

aims to provide one-third of the domestic market of 500,000 units a year and to take up the remaining annual capacity of 180,000 room conditioners and 12,000 central conditioners with sales to the Gulf. "We won't turn down sales [locally] but we won't invest in extra marketing," said Mr. Zamil. The message from all these companies is that the current downturn has to be used to retrench, consolidate, modernize and diversify if markets are to be maintained.

— ALAN MACKIE

Caution Pervades The Banking Sector

(Continued From Page 7)

among the prudent bankers of a far higher degree of risk. One cause of the banks' sagging profitability is the need for some hefty increases in general and specific loan-loss provisions, bankers say. Total loan commitments by commercial banks were at a virtual standstill, at about 59 billion riyals, from the 1983 pilgrimage season to 1984's, and are unlikely to have pierced the 60-billion barrier in the two months since.

One reason the banks are so cautious is the rapid transformation of the credit markets in Saudi Arabia in the last few years. Few banks adequately prepared themselves for the changes. Contract financing and import financing — previously the banks' bread-and-butter business, accounting for more than two-thirds of their loan commitments — have fallen off sharply or, at best, leveled off in the last two years. Loan demand from these sectors now takes the form of rollovers of existing credits to meet the unexpected cash crunch caused by the sudden downturn in public-sector contracts.

Among potential growth markets to replace the lost business in these traditional areas are the rapidly growing agricultural and industrial sectors. But whereas the traditional trade and contract financing entailed relatively few risks and little specialized expertise — it was geared toward established foreign companies or to entrenched merchant families with proven track records — both the new areas are considered high-risk, and few banks have the in-house expertise to assess the risk or viability of projects. Agriculture especially is considered risky because of the uncertainties surrounding the government commitment to continue its large subsidies.

This caution does not stop with the banks. The government's own Industrial Development Fund, SIFD, created to provide start-up financing for industrial concerns to help diversify the economy, has developed a reputation for a tough, no-nonsense credit evaluation process. Its project and credit evaluation department is considered among the best in the kingdom, however, and once a borrower receives the SIFD seal of approval he finds bank credit available, even on good terms.

The problem created by the scarcity of commercial bank credits is exacerbated by the lack of alternative sources of financing, especially for the medium- to long-term credits that would normally be available in the capital markets. No bond market exists in Saudi Arabia. The last riyal-denominated bond was issued six years ago, al-

though Al-Bank Al-Saudi Al-Faransi recently acted as the agent bank for a dollar-denominated \$50-million floating rate note issued for the Bin Laden organization. Some banks have studied arranging corporate bonds and developing a secondary market, but for now, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency is lukewarm to anything not privately placed.

The kingdom does enjoy a fairly active market for new equity issues. Secondary market turnover is in the doldrums and prices have fallen on what few trades are registered by as much as a fifth in the last month. But new issues look to be at least twice oversubscribed, indicating a strong enough investor appetite to finance a Saudi company wishing to raise capital by going public. There are about 110 joint stock companies in the kingdom, capitalized at perhaps \$13 billion or more. There were 15 new issues last year and four so far this year, with one or two big issues expected by the end of the year. Coming to market in late November, for instance, are 4.5 million shares, priced at 100 riyals a share, of National Industries Corp.

But there is still a sharp disparity in investor attitudes toward primary and secondary issues, which limits the scale and depth of the stock market. The much smaller investors come in essentially for the primary issue to catch the potential windfall between the par and market price by selling quickly to selected brokers who put together syndicates of smaller investors. They then sell a block of the shares to the handful of major investors, who tend to hold them over the long term. There is thus little turnover in the secondary market.

The government is well aware of these shortcomings in the financial system, and is studying various proposals to correct some of the gaps. For instance, there have been proposals for some sort of system in which the government could provide guarantees to support loan requests by small to medium-sized borrowers.

SAMA has shifted the emphasis of its policies, now that its Saudization program has been put into effect, to prod banks into providing better services and credit availability for the middle tier of borrowers.

These borrowers have lacked the kind of attention that the banks have provided to the several hundred prime names occupying the first tier of best credit in the Saudi market. But whether the government guarantee is the answer is far from clear, and it would appear that the business community will have to sort out its own affairs with the banks rather than depend on the government for a bailout of some sort.



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CHANGING TIMES

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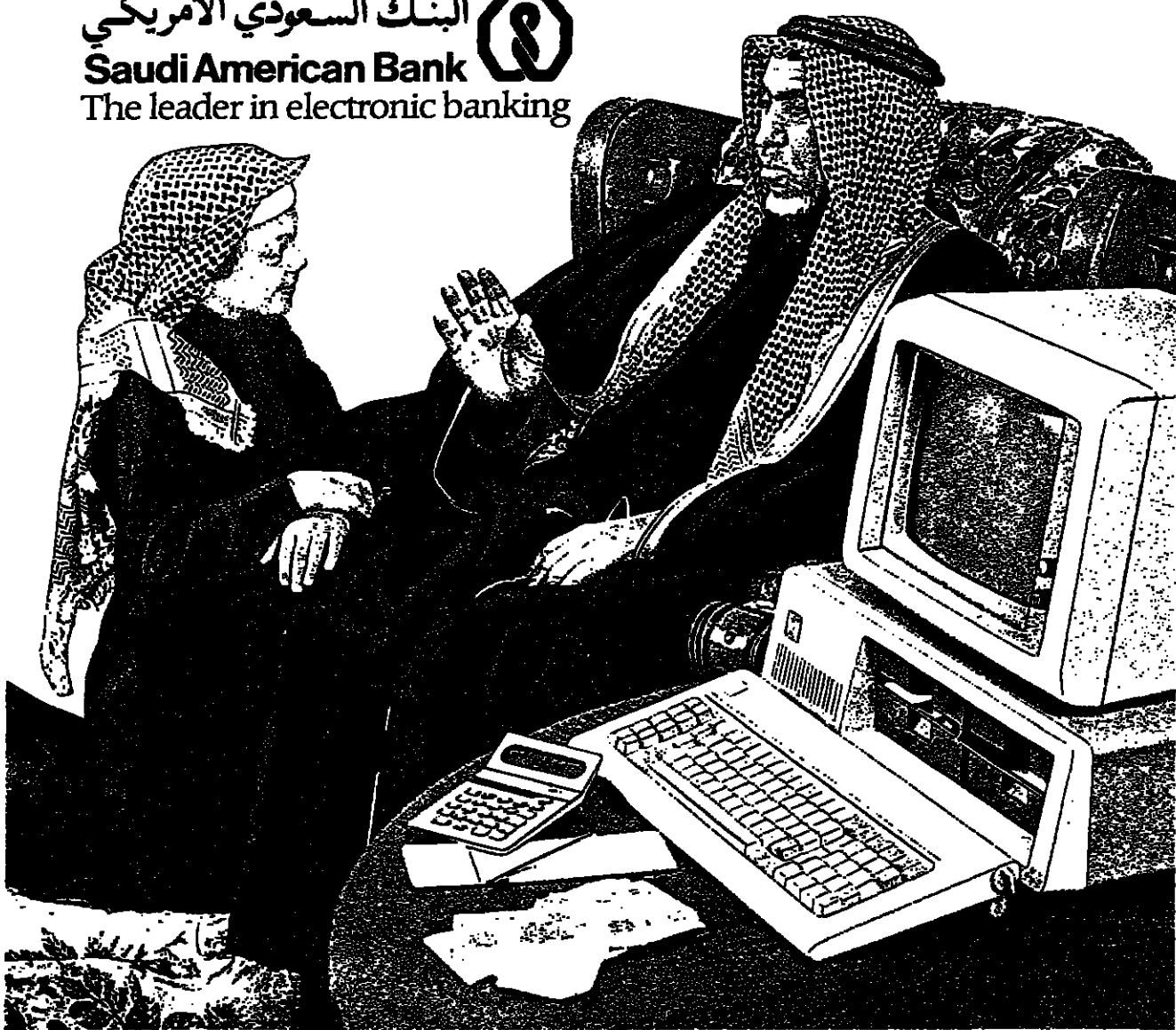
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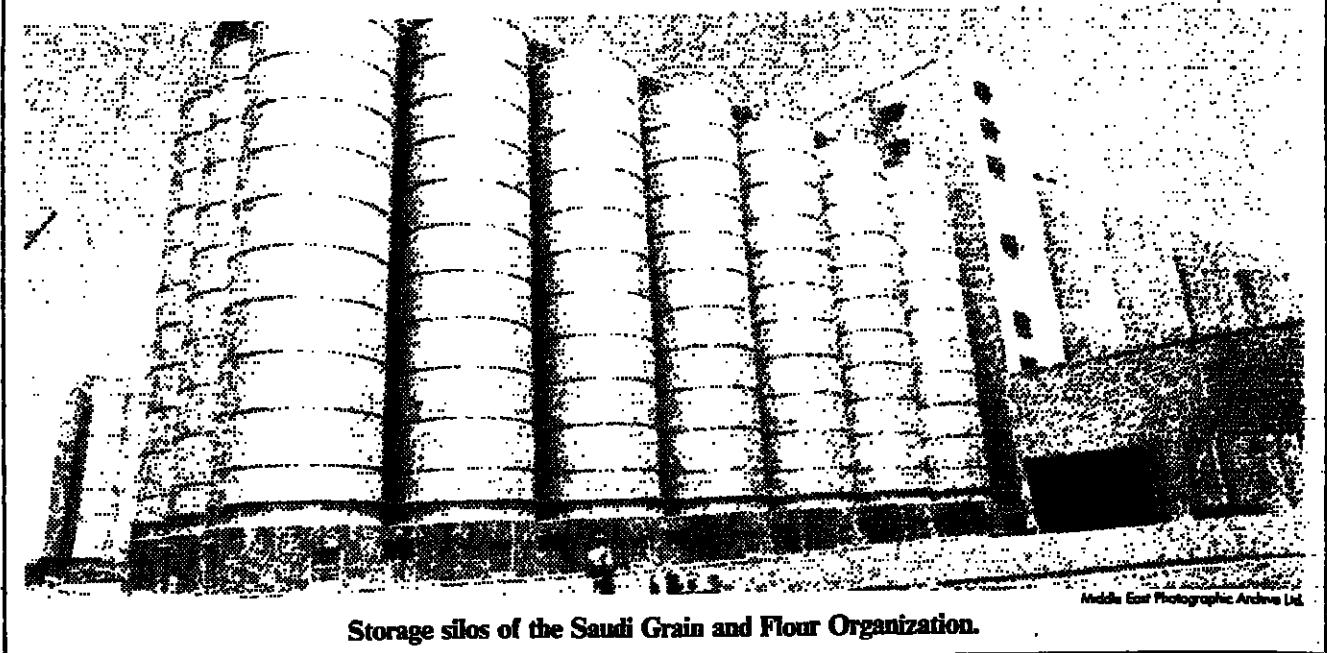
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A SPECIAL REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA



Storage silos of the Saudi Grain and Flour Organization.

Europeans, Saudis Begin Discussions On Tariffs for Petrochemical Exports

RIYADH — As Saudi Arabia develops into one of the world's largest exporters of petrochemicals, it has begun a dialogue of the deaf with the European Community over trade tariffs. Although each side professes to deplore its own as well as the other's rhetorical excesses, passions are high in Saudi Arabia, and more charges of protectionism and calls for reprisals are likely when five polyethylene plants come on stream next year.

The only Saudi petrochemical to reach European markets in bulk so far is methanol, used in making formaldehyde, acetic acid and solvents and as an additive in lead-free gasoline.

Although production of methanol in European Community and European Free Trade Association countries combined is about one million metric tons short of consumption, at 3.5 million tons a year, local manufacturers fear they will be unable to compete with Saudi Arabia's large, up-to-date plants, which have the additional advantage of virtually free, inexhaustible supplies of methane gas from the kingdom's oilfields.

Saudi Methanol Co. (Ar-Razi) began exporting in July 1983 from a plant at Jubail on the Gulf coast that has a capacity of 600,000 tons a year. The country's only other producer, National Methanol Co. (Ibn Sina), started commercial operations Nov. 1 from a 650,000-ton-a-year unit in Jubail.

These are comparable to the largest plants in Europe, such as Methanol-Chemie's 750,000-ton works in the Netherlands, and almost all their production is for export. Not all will go to Europe, however. Japan is due to take half the output from Ar-Razi, a 50-50 joint venture between Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC) and a consortium headed by Mitsubishi, and has substantially reduced domestic production.

European petrochemicals capacity has been cut by about 800,000 tons a year in the last four years. A spokeswoman at Royal Dutch/Shell's chemicals division said, "Things will get very difficult if there is no further rationalization."

In September, the EC Commission imposed a 13.5-percent tariff on Saudi methanol, the same level that is levied on all consignments of methanol entering the community.

This provoked a wave of indignation in Saudi Arabia. Abdullah Quwaiz, deputy secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the political and economic union comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, said, "This type of application of quotas... conflicts with the objectives the community had in mind when agreeing upon them." He accused the EC of "violating an existing tacit agreement" with the GCC that tariffs would not be imposed until the completion of trade talks. No GCC state, he added, had yet exceeded its quota.

The EC's commissioner for industry, energy

and research, Etienne Davignon, repudiated the charge. "I am not aware that any official could have made that commitment," he said in Paris.

Saudi Arabia, like most developing countries, is a beneficiary of the General System of Preferences (GSP), which allows modest amounts of products into the EC duty-free. The concession for each methanol exporter this year is 256,300 European Currency Units (ECUs) — equivalent at November spot market rates of about \$165 a ton for methanol, to about 1,200 tons. "a single boatload," in the words of Michael Cockburn, trade policy adviser to the Brussels-based Council Européen des Fédérations de l'Industrie Chimique (CEFIC).

"Once the ceiling is reached," he said, "the EC Commission must impose duty if asked to do so by a member government, which is what happened with Saudi methanol at the request of the Dutch. But a distinction must be made between a ceiling and a quota. Libya and Mexico, for example, each have a quota of 256,000 ECUs for methanol. There is no quota on Saudi imports and, as it happened, these had exceeded 12,000 tons, about 10 times the ceiling, before duty was imposed. It cannot be retroactively charged."

In Mr. Cockburn's view "the dispute over the GSP has been blown out of all proportion. We are not in the slightest worried about the duty-free amounts; what concerns us is the volumes that are entering the community on which duty is paid."

Tariffs, he added, were no longer a deterrent. "If they were, you would not get one million tons of methanol a year entering a market for 3.5 million tons," Mr. Cockburn said. "Tariffs may have been a deterrent in the 1930s and 1940s, but that effect has vanished since the Kennedy and Tokyo rounds" of trade talks. The Saudi industry and electricity minister, Abdul Aziz al-Zamil, concedes the point: "Tariffs of 20 percent are normal in Europe. What we call protectionism you call free trade." But, he went on with some passion, "From now on Saudi Arabia is not just going to be there as a market for American, European or Japanese goods without due regard to the development of local industry. The right to protect infant industries in developing countries is recognized by the EC in the Lomé agreements and GATT," the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr. Zamil's deputy on SABIC's board, Ibrahim bin Salamah, was more emphatic. "We have contributed a great deal to the prosperity of the industrial countries," he said. "Foreign companies share in our profits from the joint ventures. Perhaps the mentality behind tariffs is to arrest our development."

Saudi Arabia is not a signatory to GATT, nor is it among the 69 Third World beneficiaries of the Lomé treaties, under which the EC guarantees that the export earnings of producers of raw

materials will reach a specified minimum level during a five-year period.

Mr. Davignon conceded that the reasoning behind the GSP was "to give developing countries a chance to enter our markets," but he rejected the comparison with the Lomé accords.

"These are overall agreements covering trade, development assistance, cultural exchanges and so forth, whereas the GSP was not the result of negotiation," he said. "It is a concession; we ask for nothing in exchange and we are not obliged to maintain it."

"While the GSP has been of enormous benefit to countries like Korea and Yugoslavia, enabling them to get the tiny margin that is sometimes all that is necessary to break into markets for certain products, it is insignificant in the case of methanol; the Saudis know full well that they are not going to sell a single drop more or less of the stuff, with or without the GSP."

The EC will increase the ceiling on methanol imports under the GSP to 320,400 ECUs next year, but this is still a modest amount and community officials refuse to speculate on measures that may be taken after CEFIC submits a report on the future of the European petrochemicals industry to the EC in December.

"We are being very cautious," Mr. Davignon said. "Our mandate is to develop cooperation as far as possible without preferential treatment and the beneficiary developing countries will not be given further advantages." But he added that "relations with the Saudis are in fact very good."

"We could not care less, and I do not think they could really care less, about the GSP," he said. "They are using it quite cleverly as a political instrument."

CEFIC believes that the methanol problem may diminish in the latter half of the decade. "Demand will rise if lead-free gasoline is widely introduced," Mr. Cockburn said, "and there is every likelihood that we shall grow out of the problem, though perhaps not as soon as 1985 or 1986."

Other petrochemicals "are a totally different scene," Mr. Cockburn said. European production of polyethylenes, at about five million tons a year, outstrips local consumption by one million tons, and "although there was a tremendous demand for polyethylenes in China in 1984, that may not be repeated; we fear that export markets will be lost," Mr. Cockburn said.

The five SABIC polyethylene plants that will enter production within 12 months have a total capacity of more than 950,000 tons a year of ethylene derivatives and 295,000 tons a year of styrene, both of which are on the GSP's "sensitive products" list, as well as almost 600,000 tons a year of linear low-density polyethylene, a new product so far manufactured in only two or three countries.

— ROBERT HOLLOWAY

Marketing Structure Moves Into Place

JUBAIL — The emergence of Saudi Arabia as an important exporter of petrochemicals at a time when world markets are depressed may give foreign manufacturers sleepless nights, but Commerce Minister Sulaiman Abdul Aziz al-Sulaimi regards it as a blessing for Saudi Basic Industries Corp., the state-owned company that has a full or part stake in all eight of the kingdom's petrochemical plants.

In June, two marketing companies were set up to handle the range of products that will be coming on stream in the next 12 months. SABIC Marketing will negotiate sales contracts and prices, while SABIC Marketing Services will provide support services such as delivery, storage and quality control.

"We are lucky to be entering a market when it forces us to be competitive," Mr. Sulaimi said, "just as we were fortunate that the latest high technology was becoming available when we started to set up the plants in the late '70s and early '80s."

The technology was provided by foreign companies, in most cases U.S. or Japanese, which entered joint ventures with SABIC that cover every aspect of production and marketing. Exxon Chemical Co., for example, has a 50-percent equity holding in the \$1.1-billion al-Jubail Petrochemical Co., or Kemya, which plans to start commercial production of linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) by next autumn.

Used in making thin plastic coatings and films, this new product is lighter and stronger than other LLDPEs and is produced at lower cost, using a low-pressure process involving special catalysts made under license from Union Carbide.

"Apart from Dow Chemical, which uses a different process, we know of no other major manufacturer of LLDPE except Exxon itself," said a Kemya official. Security is so tight at the Jubail plant that even SABIC officials have to satisfy armed guards that they are not carrying cameras.

As with the other joint ventures, Kemya's output will be marketed by the two venture partners; the U.S. company is obliged to find outlets for a certain, undisclosed percentage of the total.

"We have an option to sell through alternative networks if the marketing companies fail to lift all we produce," Kemya President James Brewer said, but he refused to elaborate. "We are not a marketing firm and we are forbidden to discuss it."

SABIC's vice chairman, Ibrahim Salamah, said, "In the short term, our partners will bear the burden of distribution, since they have greater experience, but SABIC will assume a greater responsibility in the future. All profits

from marketing operations will be ploughed back into the joint venture after distribution costs and commissions have been deducted."

A source in Riyadh, who asked not to be identified, said that "in a typical case the partner is contractually obliged to lift more than half the output from the joint venture; it is then his problem." The partner may therefore find itself in competition with SABIC Marketing, particularly if it has other production units outside Saudi Arabia.

The capacity of the Kemya plant, for instance, is 260,000 metric tons a year, compared with 270,000 at Exxon's LLDPE unit at Mont Belvieu, Texas, near Houston. Kemya plans to export chiefly to the Far East and has decided to manufacture LLDPE in pellet form to suit customers there, while the Houston plant turns out granulated LLDPE, but otherwise there is no difference.

Mr. Brewer said that until the completion of start-up tests that began in October the company could not gauge optimal operating capacity, but since the plant has a twin reactor it would be possible in extreme circumstances to close capacity by half.

There is, however, not likely to be any shortage of markets for LLDPE. More serious is the outlook for National Methanol Co., a joint venture involving Celanese-Texas Eastern and the huge \$2.5-billion Saudi Yanbu Petrochemical Co., half-owned by Mobil, which will be trying to enter the oversupplied markets for methanol and ethylene glycol, a derivative used in making anti-freeze and fibers.

"The partners appeared not to realize that SABIC would be so successful," said a source who asked not to be named. "The one firm which saw the writing on the wall was Dow, which wrote off \$25 million when it pulled out of Arabian Petrochemical Co. in 1982, leaving it a wholly owned SABIC subsidiary. Dow realized that the Third World was going to become the big producer of petrochemicals and it has decided to go further downstream."

Not all of the SABIC plants' output will be exported, however. "There is a misconception about our operations," said Abdul Aziz al-Jarbou, director-general of SABIC Projects Implementation, Saudi Petrochemical Co., or SADA, a \$3-billion joint venture with Pecten Arabia, a subsidiary of U.S. Shell, will be producing 454,000 metric tons a year of ethylene dichloride after it comes fully on stream in March next year, "but it is not widely appreciated that half of this will be absorbed by National Plastic Co.," said Mr. Jarbou. National Plastic is half-owned by Lucky Corp. of South Korea, which plans to produce 200,000 tons a year of PVC in Jubail, he said.

Preliminary estimates show that 38 percent of SABIC exports will go to the United States, 22 percent to Japan, 11 percent to Europe and 29 percent elsewhere, but the volume available for export remains uncertain. Mr. Jarbou said he thought that "the forecast of 11 percent domestic consumption of petrochemicals is on the conservative side. There are already more than 50 PVC molding factories in the kingdom and we cannot tell what overall local demand will be until all the petrochemical plants are working. Private enterprise is waiting on SABIC."

The corporation, set up in 1976 with capital of 10 billion riyals, plans to spend 16.4 billion riyals under the next five-year plan, which starts in March; 8.41 billion of it would be in petrochemicals. Only three relatively modest new plants are at the stage of advanced planning, however, and the corporation's vice chairman, Mr. Salamah, confirmed that "we have no other firm plans." More than half the investments in the five-year plan, he said, would be "with the private sector."

One of the three plants will produce 1,300 to 1,500 tons a day of ammonia from methane or ethane gas. The other two will be integrated into the Jubail system, taking feedstocks from the first generation of petrochemical plants to produce polystyrene and MTBE, a chemical that replaces lead to improve gasoline octane ratings.

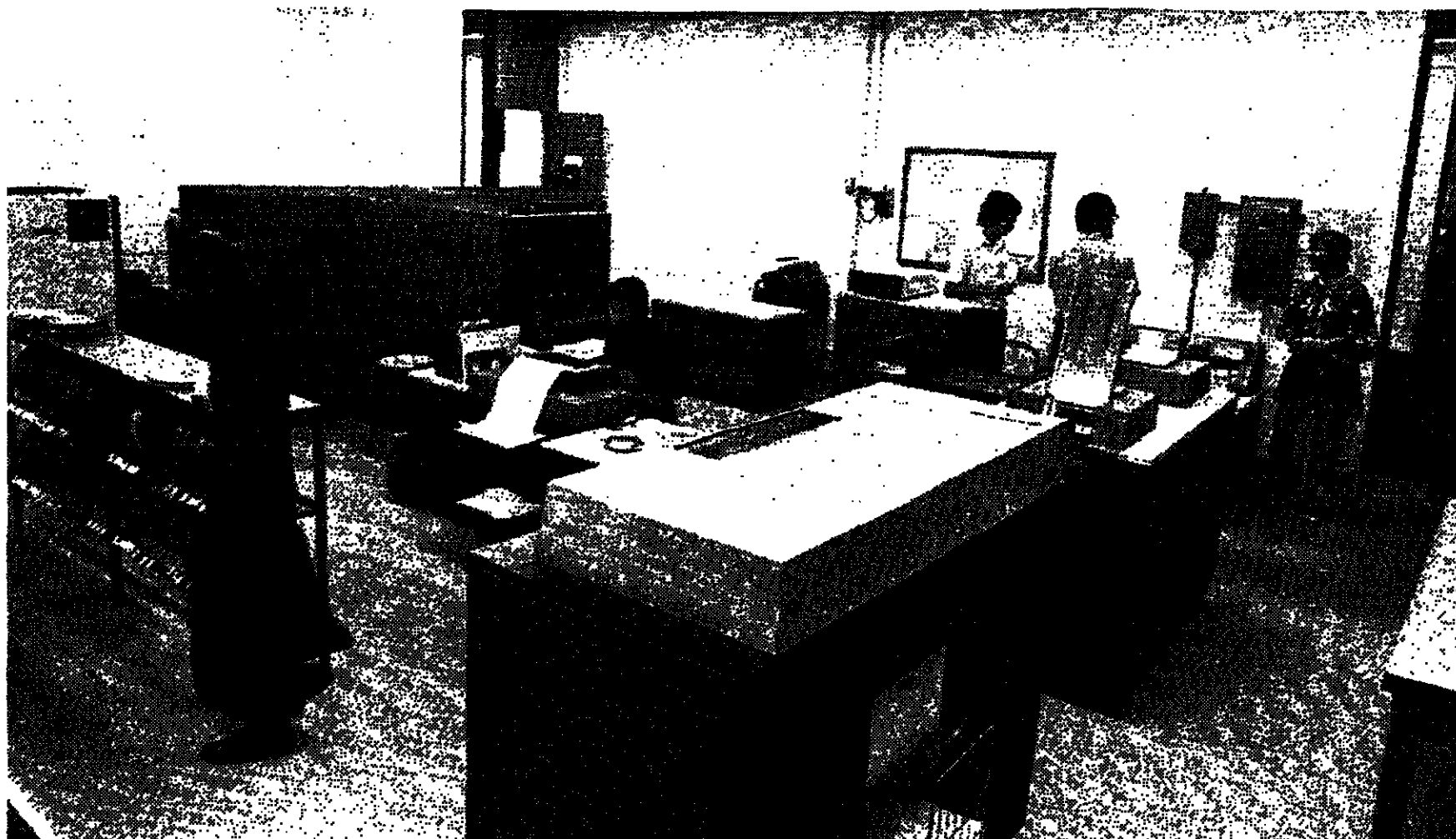
Some of SABIC's competitors argue that guaranteed long-term supplies of cheap methane and ethane from the Saudi state hydrocarbons concern, Petromin, coupled with sites at nominal rents from the Royal Commission for Yanbu and Jubail, give the corporation a head start. But Tony Foster, general manager of the chemicals division of Britain's ICI, has said that "we do not believe that the Saudis have a significant cost advantage."

Although all SABIC projects have so far been completed ahead of schedule and below budget, SADA's senior vice president, Mohammed al-Mady, said, "The low cost of our raw materials is offset by the high cost of setting up new plant, about 20 percent above costs in Europe, and by very expensive training; the only advantage we have is brand-new technology."

Bill Carpenter, seconded from U.S. Shell to be president of SADA, argued that even this advantage was "not unique to Saudi Arabia. The only uniquely Saudi advantage we have is cheap feedstock, and this is an absolute must if Jubail is to compete. We are logistically disadvantaged in that we are distant from markets in the developed world. We have to work very hard to get a normal rate of return and we do not expect any profit margins until prices pick up in the 1990s."

— ROBERT HOLLOWAY

A SPECIAL REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA



Computer room of the petroleum college at the University of Dhahran.



Students at the University of Dhahran.

Petromin-Mobil Refinery at Yanbu Operational Six Months Ahead of Schedule

JEDDAH — Although it is, above all, a producer of crude oil, by the end of this year Saudi Arabia will have become a significant exporter of refined products, a prospect that worries refiners in Western Europe, where plants are already working at about two-thirds of capacity.

In July, six months ahead of schedule, Petromin, the state hydrocarbons concern, began operating a refinery in the Red Sea port of Yanbu that has a capacity of 250,000 barrels a day and is run as a joint venture with Mobil. An identical venture with Shell is due to start this month at Jubail, on the Gulf coast, while a 325,000-barrel-a-day refinery involving Petrochemicals International of Greece is under construction.

Five older refineries have a total capacity sufficient to meet domestic demand. The output of the new plants is for export only.

This has raised fears that Saudi Arabia will be able to undercut refiners in Europe and has aroused suspicion that the kingdom might follow the line taken by some other members of OPEC and use its refineries to exceed the organization's production ceilings.

Speaking in London earlier this year, the president of Exxon, Richard Reid, said: "My greatest fear is that the OPEC oil producers will think they can increase their output by selling products in Europe... We look upon that as a threat."

The governor of Petromin, Abdelhady Taher,

described these fears as exaggerated. While it is true, he said, that "our commitment to OPEC does not directly affect our refinery output, you should not look at refined products in this context as any different from crude." Refinery output could be used as "a substitute for crude — there is no magic formula for that," he said, but added that what mattered as far as OPEC was concerned was the kingdom's total production.

Under the terms of the OPEC oil ministers' agreement in Geneva at the end of October, Saudi crude production should be limited to 4.353 million barrels a day. The implication of Mr. Taher's remarks — although he did not spell it out clearly — was that if the Yanbu and Jubail refineries produced at maximum capacity, crude output would be restricted to 3.853 million barrels a day.

As for the threat to European refiners, Mr. Taher said that since the refineries were 50-50 joint ventures, Petromin's maximum available capacity from the two combined was 250,000 barrels a day, equivalent to "only 0.4 percent of total refinery capacity in the market economy countries in the free world."

Another way of looking at it is that France, the largest refining nation in Europe after Italy, has a total capacity of 2.37 million barrels a day, less than five times the size of the Yanbu and Jubail plants. French capacity has been slashed from a maximum of 3.42 million barrels a day in

1976, but refineries are still operating at 66 percent, a figure typical of much of Europe, and further cuts of at least 170,000 barrels a day are regarded as inevitable. Primary refining capacity in the members of the International Energy Agency, which includes most OECD countries but not France, has shrunk by about seven million barrels a day in the last five years, to 40 million barrels a day, and is expected to decline by a further one million barrels a day by the end of next year.

Mr. Taher denied that Petromin would undercut European refiners by providing the refineries with cheap feedstock. "Crude will be sold to the refineries at government-established prices," he said in a recent interview.

But he conceded that Saudi Arabia's entry into the market would "tend to accelerate the rationalization of outdated capacity, which has not been subject to new investment in upgrading."

Petromin officials say the yield of the Yanbu refinery will reach about 70 percent per barrel of crude, a very high rate of return; comparable refineries elsewhere normally get about 50 percent.

Output from the Yanbu refinery at full capacity breaks down as follows: 68,000 barrels a day of gasoline, 18,000 barrels a day of naphtha, 35,000 barrels a day of aviation fuels, 75,000 barrels a day of diesel and heating fuels and 54,000 barrels a day of bunker fuels and heavy

heating oils. Refining industry sources describe the proportion of gasoline and naphtha, the lightest fuels, as unusually high.

A big imponderable is demand. Petromin officials say the refineries are not expected to work at more than 400,000 barrels a day by the end of next year. The third export refinery, at Rabigh, between Yanbu and Jeddah, was originally scheduled to start operating late in 1985, and Mr. Taher said in October that this was still the case. But industry sources have been quoted as saying that they do not expect it to function before 1987.

Under the terms of the joint venture agreements with Shell and Mobil, each partner is entitled to lift half the refinery output. The refineries were financed 60 percent by the Public Investment Fund and 10 percent by commercial financial institutions. The remaining 30 percent of the equity was shared equally by Petromin and its partner.

As an incentive to enter the venture, Mobil and Shell were guaranteed crude supplies of 125,000 barrels a day for 15 years. Mr. Taher said these guaranteed supplies would not be jeopardized "provided that the refinery runs according to the agreement." This stipulated that each partner must lift 60 percent of its refinery entitlement, or 75,000 barrels a day of products.

There is no cost benefit. The incentive crude is sold at official contract prices, Mr. Taher said,

and while the final pricing arrangements for the refined products have yet to be reached, a spokesman for one of the two U.S. companies, Mobil, said that they would be sold at European prices "netted back." In other words, Shell and Mobil will pay what they would have paid in Europe, less transport costs.

The quality mix in the incentive crude sales is 50 percent light and extra light and 50 percent medium and heavy crudes, Mr. Taher said.

This is slightly lighter on average than the new mix that Saudi Arabia told clients they would have to take after Oct. 1 so that it could sell more of its advantageously priced heavy oils. The incentives sales to Mobil and Shell are, therefore, a means of disposing of modest amounts of light crude that Saudi Arabia would currently have difficulty selling at full price.

The refinery venture agreements were concluded when markets were tight and guaranteed oil supplies were attractive. Now, however, Mobil and Shell would appear to have little or no incentive to lift their incentive crudes.

But, Mr. Taher said, "neither the oil majors nor Petromin believe that the surplus will last forever. The time will come again when crude is tight and the companies consider it to their advantage to have guaranteed access."

A spokesman for one of the refinery partners, Mobil, added that they did not want to put long-term supplies in danger by failing to respect the refinery agreement. "Even in today's glutted

market," he said, "it would be more expensive to let the refinery stand idle."

Agreements between OPEC members commit them to respect specified price levels for crude sales, with variations only for quality and transport costs, and not to undercut one another. There are no agreements on prices for refined products, however, since in the past OPEC countries did not possess sufficient refining capacity to have any degree of control over the market.

As it enters the refining business on a large scale, Petromin has essentially two options: to base its product prices on spot prices in Europe or to use a fixed price that would probably be related to the official contract crude price.

It rejects the former because, in Mr. Taher's words, "the spot market does not provide either the buyer or the seller with either stability or short-term predictability of price," and it "inevitably exaggerates underlying supply and demand pressures." But, on the other hand, "we recognize that we cannot sell a product at a price that is higher than the buyer is prepared to pay for it." The answer to the apparent dilemma is to give refined products a government-established price, but also to write into sales contracts "phase-out provisions" that will give the seller protection while "providing adequate notice that a price adjustment is called for," Mr. Taher said.

—ROBERT HOLLOWAY

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A SPECIAL REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA

Lower Oil Income Puts Budget Planners In Worst Financial Squeeze Since 1950s

LONDON — Saudi Arabia is facing its worst financial squeeze since the late 1950s, and the government's decisions on how to cope with it will have an immediate, direct impact on the private sector and the fledgling industrial sector.

The private sector has endured two successive years of dramatic rollbacks in state spending since the autumn of 1982. Last year, government outlays barely reached 223 billion riyals, well under a budgeted 260 billion riyals and about 22 percent under the 286-billion-riyal peak in spending in 1981-1982.

While those numbers have been repeated endlessly, they are nevertheless important because government payments still are the most important source of money supply creation in the kingdom. They accounted for at least 95 percent of all domestic liquidity creation last fiscal year, and perhaps more, since the banks have made little new net credit commitments since the pilgrimage season in 1983.

In these two years of austerity, the growth in the money supply has been sharply curtailed. M-1 and M-2 grew barely 1 percent and 3.3 percent, to 86 billion riyals and 120 billion riyals, respectively, in the fiscal year that ended last April. The growth was four times that amount before the spending rollbacks. Even M-3, which includes large foreign currency deposits, managed growth of only 7.7 percent to 144 billion riyals, against a rate three times that big in the easy days before the oil glut.

The Saudi economy, with its absence of foreign exchange controls and its cash orientation, had been largely fueled by the high money supply growth of previous years. So when the money supply dropped sharply with the state spending cuts, economic activity was likewise clipped. The growth in the nonoil domestic product — the best measure of private-sector activity — fell to a little better than 5 percent this year, compared to rates of 11 and 12 percent the two years before. In other words, many contractors and trading houses in the kingdom have found themselves seriously strapped for liquidity or markets for expansion.

Thus, when the Finance Ministry unveiled its new budget last April for 1984-1985, it was greeted with a sigh of relief. Government spending was targeted to grow back up to 260 billion riyals. Especially appealing was the budget's higher capital expenditure — payments to contractors — to 114 billion riyals from 82 billion.

Few people believed, however,

that the government would actually spend 260 billion riyals this year. The number is largely a political gesture, and even the Finance Ministry has been working with figure closer to 235 billion or 245 billion riyals. The announced budget was interpreted to mean that the ministry believed the corner had been turned, and that pleas from many in the private sector for the deus ex machina of higher spending, to ease the pain of tight liquidity, had been answered.

The new budget was based on a rather optimistic revenue forecast of 216 billion riyals, with the shortfall to be covered through a 46-billion-riyal draw on the principal of the foreign reserves under management of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency. Oil revenue was to total 151 billion riyals, or about \$3.5 billion a month at a budgeted exchange rate of 3.54 riyals to the dollar; crude oil exports would have to average about 4.2 million barrels a day throughout the year. Interest income from reserves would bring in 35 billion riyals, for a return of a little less than 10 percent on foreign investments of \$108 billion; 27 billion riyals would be raised internally through gasoline sales and various other sources, such as utility charges.

But nothing has gone the Finance Ministry's way in the first half of the fiscal year. While spending has been running about par with last year's level of an average 18 billion riyals a month, revenue has been falling well under the forecast. Interest income, for instance, will probably be no more than \$9 billion or about 32 billion riyals this year because of the steady sales of dollar assets, which are the highest yielding. Nonoil and noninvestment revenue also has been scaled back by about 3 billion riyals to 24 billion.

The biggest shortfall, though, as always, has been due to an uncooperative oil market. April was the only month in the fiscal year to date that the \$3.5-billion oil revenue target was met. Oil revenue has dwindled steadily since, to reach about \$2.8 billion in August, according to reliable sources at SAMA. The kingdom's agreement at September's OPEC meeting to an implicit production quota of 4.37 million barrels a day — even lower if the side agreements with Nigeria are factored in — means it will be next to impossible to bring production back up this winter to counter the lower production of the summer and meet the budget's ex-

port target of 4.2 million barrels a day.

Oil revenue will be dampened further by the recent shift toward heavier crudes in the production mix, which brings the average weighted income per barrel, before Aramco costs, to about \$27.50 from \$28.50.

Barring a miraculous turnaround in the international oil markets — which almost no one is betting on — the Finance Ministry will be lucky to hit the bottom end of its own spending target this year, much less the 260 billion riyals announced in April. That means some tough decisions, with enormous political ramifications, will have to be made.

The most popular option, at least among cash-strapped contractors and the trading houses, is an even deeper draw on the principal of the foreign reserves than the \$13 billion budgeted. For years, the Finance Ministry and SAMA have described the foreign assets as "deferred expenditures" to be kept fairly liquid for the day when the paper wealth would be needed to continue domestic development.

The day of reckoning appears to have arrived. If the budgeted \$13-billion draw this year is included, SAMA will have depleted about \$23 billion of the assets, in addition to \$21 billion in interest income, in the two years to next spring. Add a few billion in foreign exchange losses from sales of non-dollar assets this year, and that is a lot of money.

There is talk of the drawdown rising to as much as \$20 billion this year, which is within the realm of possibility. But the Finance Ministry and SAMA will be reluctant to go above the sanctioned \$13 billion, for a number of reasons. First, such a step would have to be approved by the Council of Ministers, which could mean a nasty debate over the management of the reserves. SAMA's total income-producing foreign reserves dropped below \$100 billion in September, according to well-placed sources, and while it is difficult to imagine feeling broke with that much in the bank, this was nevertheless an important psychological barrier.

Further drawdowns also would cut more deeply into investment income because the bulk of the sales so far have been in dollars, and dollar-denominated assets are providing the best returns since the U.S. inflation rate has been brought under control. Finally, there is no small amount of thinking that suggests that future generations should not have to pay for

this generation's relative inability to handle its finances.

The dilemma facing the Finance Ministry is where to cut from the budgeted outlays. It is next to impossible to cut from the recurrent expenditures such as government salaries and administration costs, or operations and maintenance, which account for the first three chapters of the budget. Cutting back on subsidies is politically unacceptable. Thus if 25 billion to 30 billion riyals must be trimmed out of the budget, it is not hard to guess that the cuts will be made in projects — not the most welcome news to contractors.

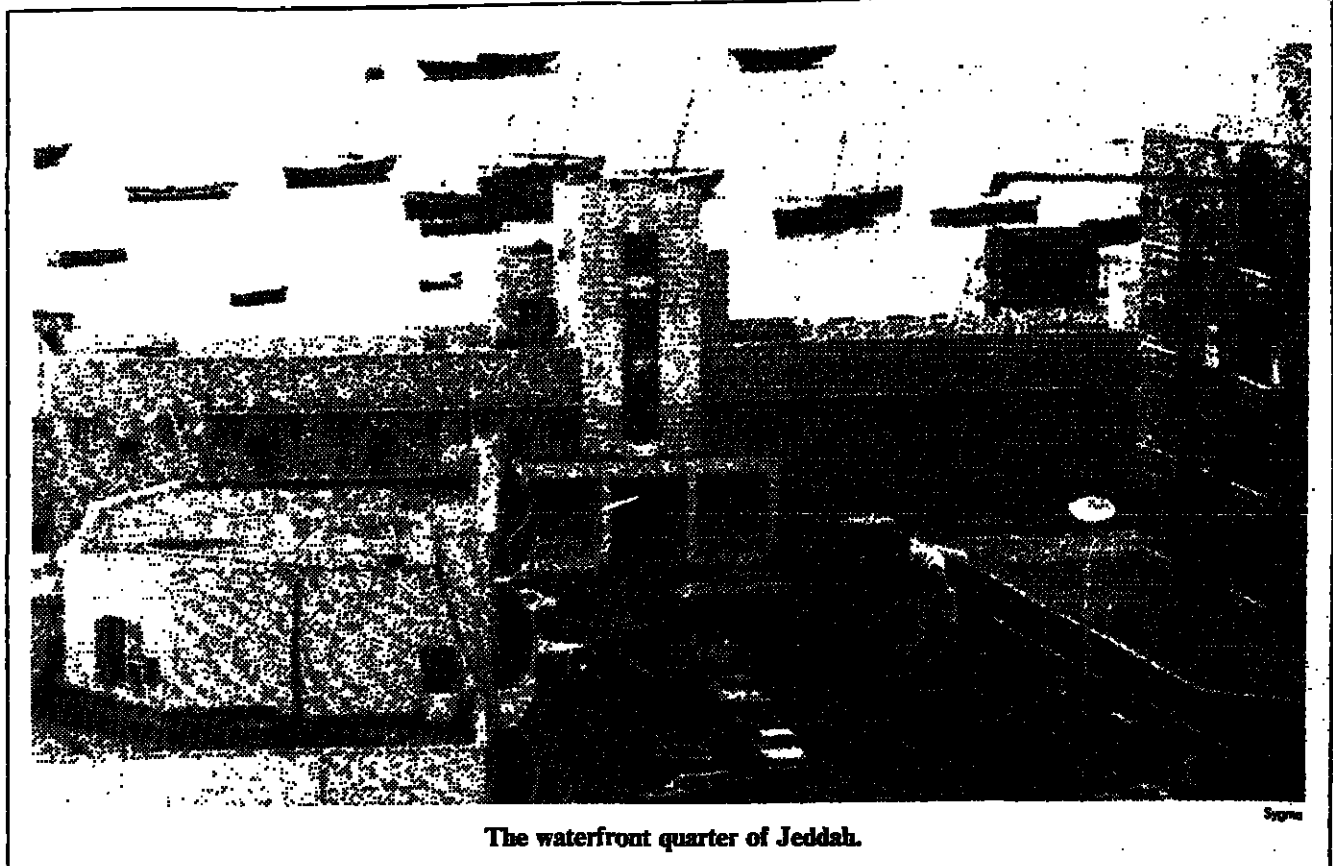
If there is any consolation, it is that the Finance Ministry is prepared to ensure that spending does not dip below last year's level, even if this means going ahead and digging into the reserves. But one must not underestimate the room for maneuvering still available to the ministry to keep enough riyals going through the system despite the slower pace of total outlays.

For instance, the ministry has been especially adroit over the last two years in steering its cuts toward the direct foreign exchange spending portion of the budget rather than the more immediately felt riyal-denominated spending. The distinction is important: In 1982-1983, the first of the lean years, overall spending fell 43 billion riyals to 243 billion, but actual riyal-denominated spending increased a few billion to 173 billion riyals. While the figures for the fiscal year that ended last spring are not available yet, it is estimated that riyal spending has fallen no more than 10 percent over the last two years — a real reduction far less severe than the 22-percent overall spending decline would suggest.

It is difficult to forecast how much more the ministry can aim its cuts at this side of the budget, especially with a Defense Ministry hungry for expensive weapons systems from the Americans and the French. But the Finance Ministry is certainly taking a close look at those numbers and at other ways to keep the riyals flowing longer before they wind their way back to SAMA in exchange for dollars.

For the private sector, until the government can find an acceptable way of readjusting to what appears to be a lower revenue horizon through the rest of this decade, the fiscal squeeze of this winter means, as one Finance Ministry official put it, that "they will have to work harder."

— KEVIN MUEHRING



The waterfront quarter of Jeddah.

Construction: First to Feel the Pinch

RIVADH — Saudi Arabia's construction industry has taken a tremendous battering from the economic slowdown and fall in oil revenue. Traditionally the pump through which the government funded economic activity, it is one of the first sectors to feel the effects when the pump is stopped. It has suffered also from the far graver structural problems of expanding beyond the long-term needs of the economy.

In the days of crash programs, profit margins were absurdly inflated — as high as 400 percent in some instances — and the loose-run company prospered side by side with the good. Abdullah Dabagh, secretary-general of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce, said that 10,000 establishments had set themselves up as contractors; the majority will fail.

The first sign of trouble came in the spring of 1982, when reports of late payments began circulating. These problems were attributed to seasonal factors having to do with government disbursements. In fact, as oil revenue began to level off, stretching out payments became an easy, effective way to slow economic activity and soak up surplus liquidity in the private sector — as well as being a cheap source of credit.

By the beginning of 1983, however,

the problem was becoming serious as the government imposed a freeze on payments until after the March OPEC agreement had re-established some order in oil markets. By then, the cumulative value of late payments carried over into the new financial year amounted to more than \$5 billion, diplomatic sources said. The story since has been how long this source of credit could be extended without triggering a series of bankruptcies that could create reverberations throughout the economy.

With greater financial stringency has come a far greater concern for quality control. The Finance Ministry has cracked down on individual ministries and government agencies. No longer can they automatically transfer funds from one budget to another. New regulations on monitoring specifications and performance have produced a mound of paperwork. One contractor noted that it now took 17 signatures for a document that two years ago required one.

The government agencies do not always have the staff to act on the new rules. Learning and familiarization with the regulations have been taking place on both sides of the payments business, and it was inevitable that there would be some hiccups and bureaucratic delays. These changes coincided 18

months ago with a directive that all government contracts go to open tender. Many contractors had to be retrained, upsetting planning and cash-flow projections, and the contracts often were relet at substantially lower prices. At the same time, advance payments were reduced from 20 to 10 percent, with a ceiling of 50 million riyals. Since then the open tender system has been extended to all Ministry of Defense contracts that are not directly related to defense. And large contracts have to be advertised in all Saudi papers.

Those measures have been felt across the industry and have been largely beneficial in opening up new areas of business. But resolution 124 of 1983, requiring 30 percent of contracts awarded to foreign joint venture groups to be subcontracted to wholly Saudi companies, was aimed specifically at helping local contractors. Aspects of the ruling remain unclear — whether, for instance, the 30 percent refers to just work in the kingdom or to the whole contract — and the resolution has been put only patchily into effect.

Resolution 124 has added one more complication to the lives of foreign contractors doing business in the kingdom. Some find that the larger, more reputable Saudi construction groups are not interested

in the narrow margins on subcontracted work while smaller companies that will take on the work at any price are often financially unsound.

However, the main complaint of foreign contractors is official indecision during the implementation of the contract, for which they are later penalized.

The minister of finance and national economy, Mohammed Abalkhail, has gone through these cases individually, with a colleague. He said that in only a few instances were payments "in the pipeline." He concluded that most of the problems were technical and pointed out that the number of disputes were small in relation to the volume of business that had been contracted and the fact that it was moving to the end of the cycle.

Not all foreign groups are pessimistic. The Dutch company Ballast Nedam, doyen of the international construction construction fraternity with 21 years of continuous work in the kingdom, still sees Saudi Arabia as a promising market in the medium to long term. With the huge Bahrain causeway nearing completion, Ballast was fortunate last year to win a 5-billion-riyal contract to rebuild reinforced concrete hangars for the Saudi Air Force.

"There are no doubts that margins are tighter now and we don't expect the market to produce such large contracts in the future," said the head of the company's construction international division, Martin Weck. "We have put in bids recently for operations and maintenance. Operations and maintenance will eventually account for 20 to 25 percent of the budget."

Most foreign companies are neither as well established as Ballast Nedam nor do they have the security of a healthy order book to see them over the coming lean years. And the larger Saudi groups, such as Saudi Oger and Bin Laden, will in time become better equipped to handle the sophisticated projects previously in the Western companies' domain. The European and U.S. companies have been largely pushed by the South Koreans and Taiwanese out of general contracting into specialized engineering. One consulting engineer said the Saudis received "fantastic" value and workmanship from the South Koreans.

The open tender system has been, on the whole, highly beneficial, and the gradual introduction of more efficient grading and tender specifications will make it better. But too many companies are bidding for work for which they may be unqualified, and at untenable margins, simply to stay in business. Under the open tender rule, the lowest bidder has to be accepted.

"Ministries are now finding they have to do things by the book," said a banker. "They can't farm out projects to well-established contractors who bid low on the assumption that contracts can be revised later to a more realistic price. Taking the lowest bidder, there will be shoddy work."

One Saudi entrepreneur, Omar Aggad of Mabco, said he believed that the industry was sufficiently resilient to ride out the troubles. "We will go through a difficult year and then the liquidity problem will disappear," he said. "I don't think the liquidity problem will have a long term effect." Well-managed companies should be able to raise money even if they have to show more evidence of capability, he added.

Other people, notably bankers, are less sanguine. They fear that credit is now so severely extended, it could trigger a rash of bankruptcies. About 300 companies were declared bankrupt in 1983-1984, and the figure is expected to be quite a bit higher this year.

The Aramco index of industrial production, the most comprehensive measure of industrial activity in the kingdom, appears to have bottomed out, but experts are undecided whether the market has overreacted and will spring back to a high level or settle at a new depressed low. Whatever the outcome, the coming year is likely to see a spate of bankruptcies and a trail of foreign construction groups leaving the kingdom. For those that can hang on there will be rich pickings, for Saudi Arabia remains by far the biggest construction market in the region.

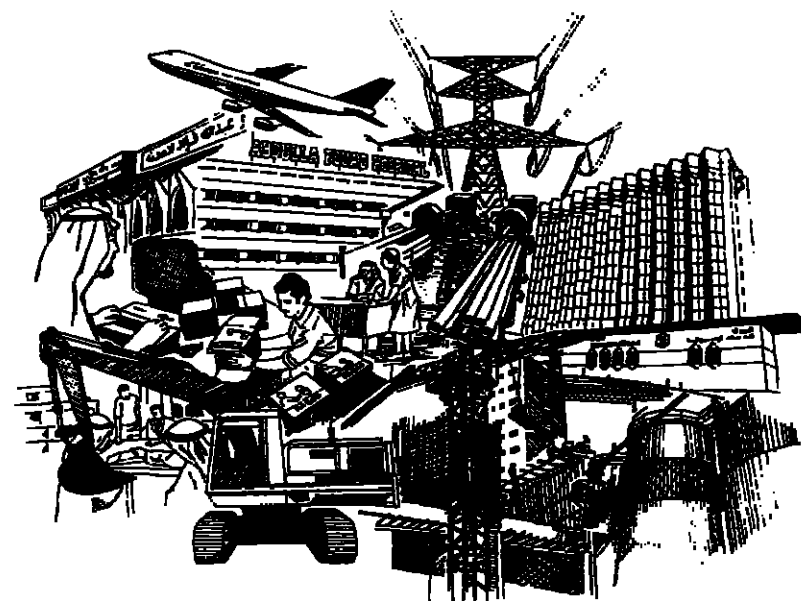
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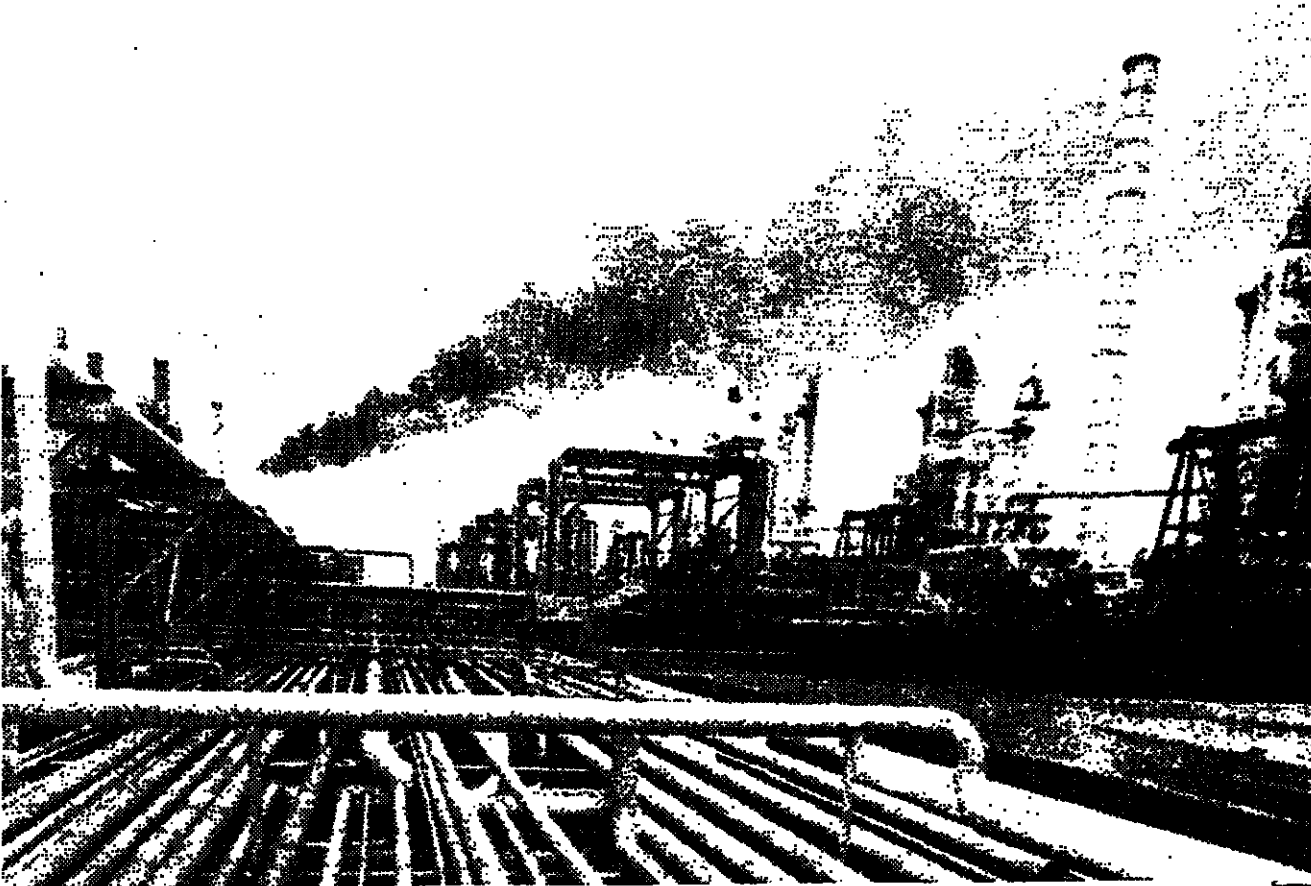
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Government spending this year is believed to be running at about last fiscal year's level of 223.2 billion riyals, the lowest since the five-year plan started. With payments due on projects that are nearing completion, it is hard to see how it can be cut further compressed. A larger drawdown on reserves seems inevitable.

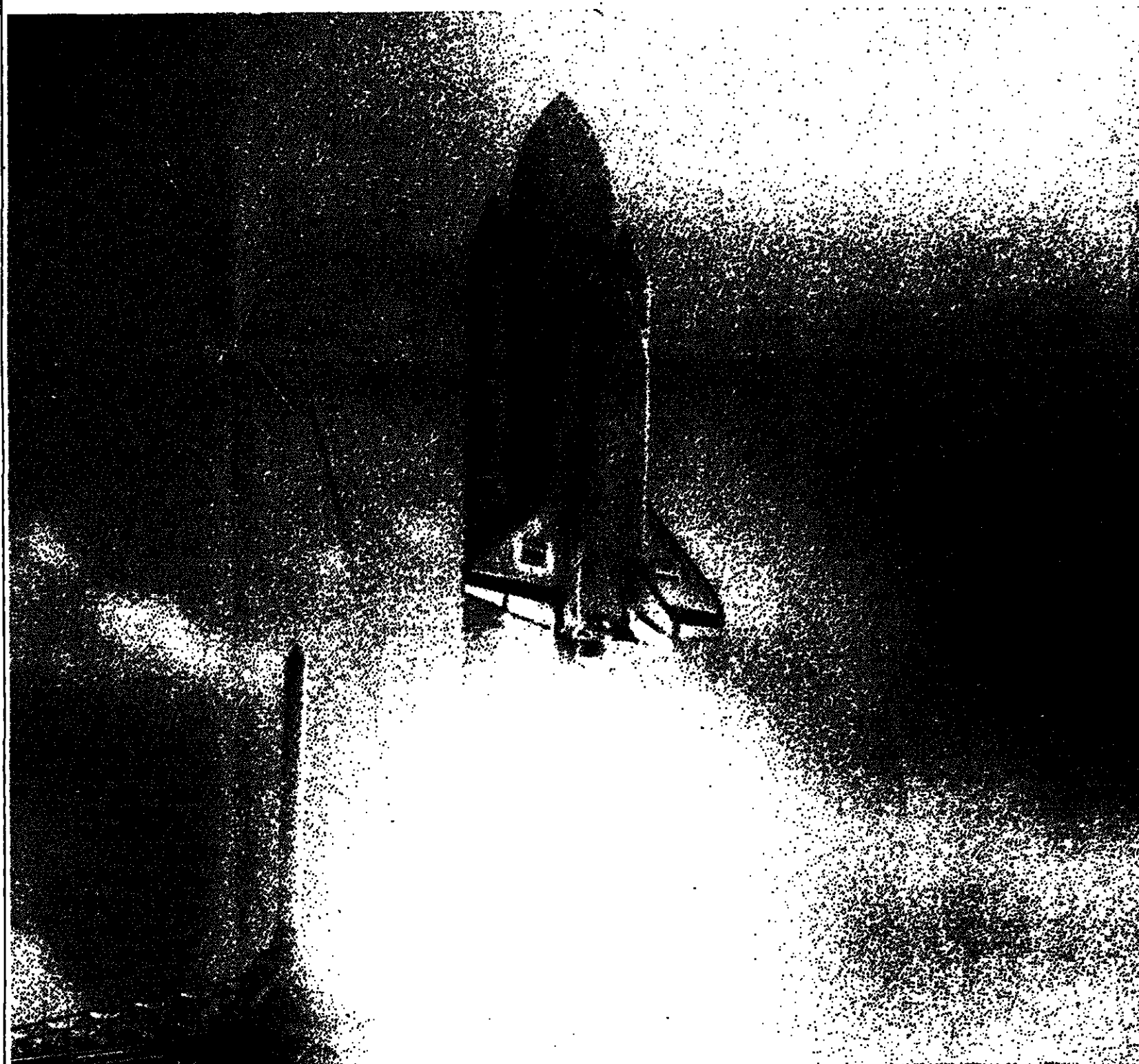

—ROBERT HOLLOWAY

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—ROBERT HOLLOWAY

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على يده ٢٥٠٠٠ دولاراً
الضائقة كما يساعدون
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A SPECIAL REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA

Saudiization Is Stepped Up; Private Sector Encouraged

RIYADH — A glance at a meal tray on any Saudi airline flight will illustrate the extent to which "Saudiization" — in its broadest sense, the promotion, use and ownership of local goods and services — has taken hold.

A year ago perhaps a couple of items on the tray would have been locally produced. Now it is usually five or six, from the cream crackers served with cheese to the wide variety of fruit juices. Government agencies are obliged to buy locally, where the product is available, and as markets become tighter, local companies are ensuring that the government does just that.

The government promotes local industry by creating an environment in which it can take root and flourish, rather than directly planning industrial development. The striking exception to this rule is the state's \$20-billion investment in the new industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu, where a range of petrochemical plants soon will come on-stream, providing not only primary products for export but also feedstocks for downstream industries to be owned and run by the private sector.

Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp., or SABIC, which owns the Jubail and Yanbu petrochemical plants, also owns and runs the country's only steel mill, at Jubail. Otherwise the government, in line with its free-market philosophy, keeps a low profile and leaves it to the private sector to decide where and how it invests.

The minister of industry and

electricity, Abdul Aziz al-Zamil, tells visiting foreign business delegations that he has no plans to give them. "The private sector has always shown that it is a better judge of the market and the needs of the market," he said.

Yet the government does have a considerable say indirectly in the way industry develops, for it provides the generous incentives — the cheap power, the soft loans, the free land and cheap utilities — that can swing an investment decision. First, it issues industrial licenses. More than 3,300 have been issued since licenses were introduced 10 years ago. By 1982 about 1,500 licenses had been taken up and acted on, and a further 500 projects were under construction.

An industrial license is the key that opens the door to government largesse: a 10-year tax holiday for joint ventures, against five for commercial establishments (wholly owned Saudi companies do not pay tax); a plot in one of the six industrial estates run by the ministry; and duty exemptions on all raw materials and equipment imports.

Theoretically, the authorities determine where one locates one's business; in practice, there is flexibility. In the past, industrial licenses were issued without much effort to check up on the companies. Some enterprising businessmen used their operations as a shell for commerce or warehousing. This situation is changing as the ministry becomes more proficient in its monitoring and as competitors

complain. Although certain industrial sectors are saturated, an application for an industrial license is invariably approved.

Further gentle guidance is provided by the Saudi Industrial Development Fund, or SIDF, which is government-owned but autonomous. It was set up to promote industrial development by offering soft loans for up to 50 percent of the capital cost of a project, repayable over 7 to 15 years.

Only about 20 percent of the \$2 billion fund has been disbursed since it was set up in 1974. Local industry also is helped selectively through tariffs, although the government's passionate commitment to free trade makes tariff protection a hotly debated issue. Tariffs are applied on about 70 items, but some of these tariffs are in abeyance. They range, within the guidelines laid down by the Gulf Cooperation Council, from 4 to 20 percent.

Mr. Zamil, the industry minister, insists that tariffs are within the limits set by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other international conventions for developing countries to support nascent industry. There are no quotas or voluntary restraints on trade, as happens in many countries, Mr. Zamil said.

The commerce minister, Sulaiman Abdul Aziz al-Sulaimi, points out further that almost half of Saudi Arabia's imports come in duty free and that only a small percentage of the remainder attract the maximum 20-percent tariff.

Tariff protection is by no means

like a commercial bank and not enough like a development bank — a particularly controversial point in the present climate of tight credit.

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Tariff protection is by no means

automatic. The government has resisted a cement tariff, Mr. Sulaimi said, because the case for dumping has not been proved; the kingdom's cement plants are operating at about 50 percent of capacity. A 20-percent tariff was imposed on cables, however, because the case for dumping was "very clear." The investment was large and Saudi Cable Co. employed Saudi labor, Mr. Sulaimi said.

He said local industry took a circumspect view of tariffs. Those who look at the long term establish themselves before asking for tariff protection so as not to invite local competition. Tariffs are theoretically a temporary measure, but Mr. Zamil at the Commerce Ministry sees them as part of a general framework of incentives in which industry will develop a potential point of conflict with the ministry, whose first loyalty is to the local customer.

For Mr. Zamil, tariffs perform the vital job of persuading foreign companies to invest in the kingdom and so facilitate the transfer of technology and management skills essential to the long-term success of the industrialization strategy.

There are few conditions put on joint venture operations: in practice they tend to be Saudi-controlled because joint ventures are eligible for SIDF loans only in proportion to the Saudi shareholding. Nor are there conditions on the amount of local content. But Mr. Zamil sounded a warning to foreign suppliers who refuse to move with the times.

"From now on we are not just going to be there as a market for all the products of the U.S., Europe and Japan without due regard to local content manufacture," he said. "It is important for those countries that have a major share of the market to recognize that if they want to keep that share for the long term they must have a local presence with a manufacturing base."

This kind of pressure already is bringing results from the Japanese, who dominate the auto market. Datsun and Toyota, the market leaders, are talking with the Saudis "because they realize that in the long term it is much better for them to have manufacturing bases in the kingdom," said Mr. Zamil, who emphasizes that he only wants industry with local content: "We

need industry to add revenue and create jobs, high level jobs. If it doesn't do this we don't want it." For about 50 percent of the country's imports, Saudiization is unfeasible, he maintained.

The most ambitious attempt so far to promote technology transfer has been the Offset package tied to the \$4-billion Peace Shield military program. Litton, Boeing and Hughes, all of the United States, have presented bids. Each has lined up \$1 billion of potential Saudi and U.S. partners to match the \$1 billion of construction work involved in Peace Shield. (The remaining \$3 billion is for equipment.) The money required up front is relatively small, as the Saudi partners will take up most of the \$250-million equity to obtain the maximum \$500 million of SIDF loans. Only 50 percent of the \$1 billion commitment has to be in place within five years.

The U.S. military is expected to decide on the package by the end of this month and the Saudi government to decide on the Offset package in January. Saudi officials consider the Offset package to be the

key determinant of the winning bid. The most effective military package may therefore be passed over for an investment program that is thought to be more in tune with the kingdom's development needs.

It has yet to be seen how successful the complex Offset deal will be. But it is the clearest signal yet of the government's determination to press ahead with Saudiization using what leverage it has to speed the transfer of management skills and technology.

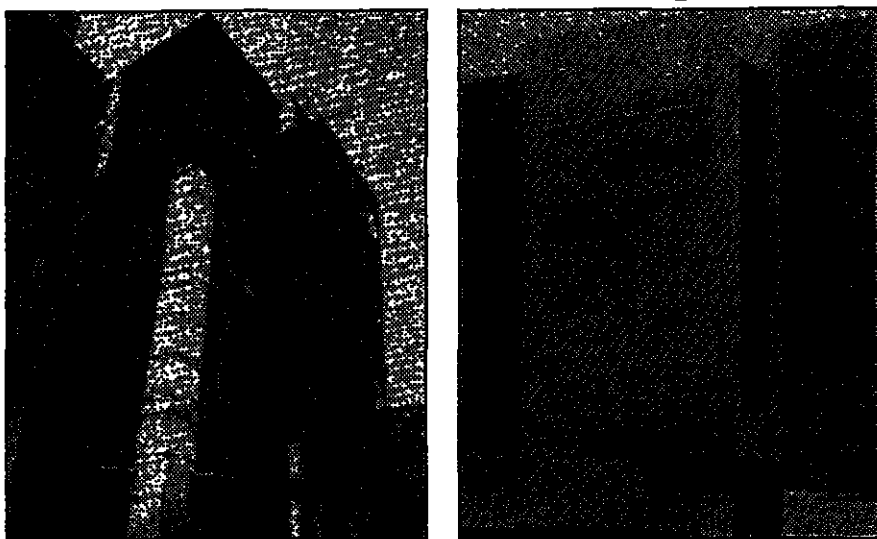
At one level the government is detaching itself from economic decision-making but at another it is being dragged into playing an active role on behalf of the private sector. As the regional market becomes more integrated, it will be difficult to avoid Gulf Cooperation Council involvement in market planning. Saudi Arabia may find that in a world of shrinking markets the principle of government noninterference will be more honored in the breach than the observance.

—ALAN MACKIE



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Wide Range of Capital-Intensive Heavy Industry

RIYADH — Saudi Arabian industry is extremely diverse, ranging from heavy industry, such as steel production, to the small factory producing consumer goods for the local market. If these varying industries have a point in common, it is that they are highly capital-intensive — because of the free availability of funds — and are becoming more so as the kingdom's entrepreneurs acquire increasingly sophisticated machinery.

Traditionally, industrial development was geared to the needs of the construction boom, but that is changing dramatically. Four years ago the building-materials industry was by far the largest sector applying for industrial licenses. Now this sector trails far behind chemicals, plastics and engineering in applications for new licenses, and this trend is likely to intensify as the petrochemical complexes at Jubail and Yanbu start operating.

Saudi Arabia opted out of plans to produce aluminum when Bahrain went ahead with its smelter. The kingdom's heavy industry is limited to a steel mill that forms part of the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC) stable of plants in Jubail. Now completing its second year of full production, the Saudi Iron and Steel Co., or Hadeed, produces 700,000 tons a year of steel, a little under design

capacity of 800,000 tons. The aim eventually is to raise production 20 to 30 percent above design capacity, said SABIC's deputy chairman and managing director, Ibrahim bin Salamah.

Hadeed has two rolling mills, one producing 520,000 tons a year of reinforced bars (rebars) and the other 270,000 tons a year of wire rod. In addition, the Jeddah Steel Rolling Mill (Salb), now part of Hadeed's operation, will be producing 140,000 tons a year of rebar and wire rods. There are no plans to expand rebar production; expansion will be limited to extrusion products such as seamless pipes. Apart from wire rods, which are sold in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Hadeed sells all its production locally. Despite inexpensive imports, there is no tariff on steel.

Steel is one of the essential raw materials of construction, and steel fabrication is a thriving local industry, dominated by Saudi Building Systems, the Saudi affiliate of Kirby Systems of Kuwait, and the local al-Zamil Steel Co. Apart from stimulating a boom in recent production, construction has created demand, together with the oil industry, for pipes. National Pipe Co. of Dammam is the largest local producer of large-diameter steel piping. Its production was 87,000 tons last year.

Aluminum Products Co., or Alupco, operates Saudi Arabia's only extrusion plants, in Dammam and Jeddah, and supplies about half the local market's requirements of 40,000 tons a year for aluminum sections. It also runs a fabrication plant. Aluminum fabrication is an immensely popular local industry and competition is intense. There is an abundance of cheap imports, and a 20-percent tariff on aluminum.

Saudi Cable Co., the kingdom's largest private-sector employer, has also been given a temporary 20-percent tariff protection to combat cable imports while expanding production to 100,000 tons a year. It aims to cover about 70 percent of the local market. Projects in heavy engineering materials are still popular. The Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF) recently approved two large loans for plants making copper tubing and ductile iron pipes.

The kingdom has a well-established fertilizer industry; the Saudi Arabian Fertilizer Co., SAFCO, of Dammam, was established in 1965. In the last two years, the al-Jubail Fertilizer Co., or Samad, one of SABIC's enterprises in Jubail, has some on stream and total fertilizer production is expected to rise to 815,000 tons a year in 1984. SAFCO also produces about 260,000 tons a year of sulfuric acid, sulfur and ammonia. With the help of a SIDF loan, SAFCO is constructing a melamine plant. SIDF is also helping with the construction of a blended fertilizer plant.

Chemical products are becoming a popular sector. SIDF is funding a plant that will produce polyethylene pipes and fittings for drip-irrigation systems.

Saudi companies produce medical syringes, detergents, paints and surface coatings. So far, however, there has been only cautious private-sector interest in secondary and tertiary petrochemical plants, which would produce the raw materials for many of these processes.

General manufacturing and consumer products are also gaining in popularity. Saudi Arabia's flagship industrial enterprise, Jubail's truck assembly joint venture with Mercedes-Benz, has become a paragon of industrial development, creating a network of ancillary industries that has raised the local content of production to more than 50 percent. Since the Jeddah plant started operations in September 1977, more than 40,000 trucks have rolled off the assembly line. There

are small bus assembly operations as well, and recently Massey Ferguson began assembling tractors in the kingdom.

Manufactured goods, in the broadest sense — from electrical goods to truck bodies and wire fencing — accounted for 38 percent of all factory starts in 1982-1983, and this sector will be of growing importance. Similarly, consumer products, textiles and leather goods, footwear, curtains and furniture as well as processed foods, paper packaging and bottled mineral water and beverages show dramatic growth as communications become easier and marketing improves.

Most Saudi products are geared to local markets. But as these become tighter, manufacturers look

increasingly to export markets, especially in the GCC. The secretary-general of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce, Abdullah Dabbagh, is calling for the creation of an export promotional council to look at ways to encourage local industry exports.

"What they need is push," Mr. Dabbagh said. "Some kind of direct subsidy should be used, as there can be no tax concessions."

The Ministry of Commerce is using its commercial attachés abroad to promote Saudi industry rather than Saudi culture. It arranged stands at the Damascus Fair in August and in Baghdad in November, where 11 companies exhibited, and at the recent Kuwait Industrial Fair.

—ALAN MACKIE

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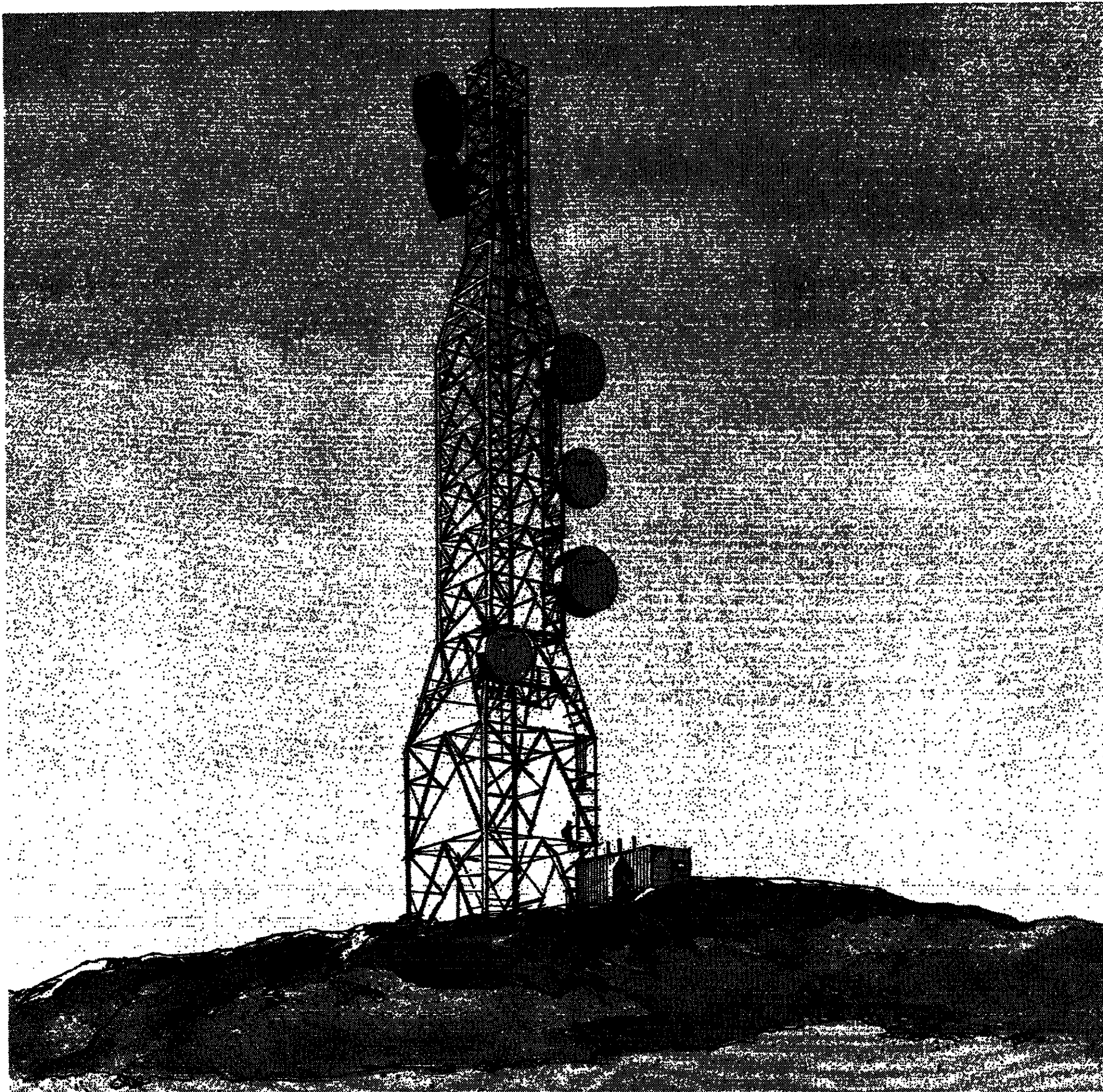
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A SPECIAL REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA



Cattle-raising operations at the SaadCo. farm project.



The Private Sector's Varied Responses to Financial Shakeout and Leaner Times

RIYADH — The Saudi private sector has responded to the current financial shakeout in various ways. Well-run companies saw the recession coming, drew in their horns, phased down their commitments, trimmed costs and began looking for new markets. Ill-prepared companies forged ahead, dangerously overextended, but blissfully unaware of what was happening until the eleventh hour.

A typical company in the second category might be negotiating for a loan to build, say, a crusher plant long after crusher plants went out of fashion. Having met with singularly little success after nine months of talks with one bank, the manager treks around to others, only to find that doors that were once opened wide now are firmly closed.

An approach to the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF) is rebuffed because late payments on a loan taken out in 1978 are outstanding. No one at the fund has made much of a fuss about such irregularities as late payments, however, and it had made much more sense to the company to invest in property instead of paying back the loan. During the good times, the company prospered despite itself, but now SIDF, having become more professional in its operations, is asking for its money back.

Although the writing has been on the wall for well over a year, father and sons who run the company refused to read it. The company scabbled by on small contracts but the 6-percent margin it makes in no way covers the overhead. At any time the company could become another SIDF debtor with a foreclosed mortgage. Meanwhile the business is slowly hemorrhaging to the tune of 2 million to 3 million riyals a year. In a desperate bid to cut costs, the family starts firing expatriate staff, haphazardly—for being late for work or for trivial errors.

The vast majority of companies are somewhere in between the very well-run and the severely mismanaged, between the large merchant families—the Ali Rezas, the Juffas, the Olayans and the Zamils, who among them own about 40 percent of Saudi industry and are largely immune from the credit crisis, having large financial reserves and access to the most sophisticated management—and the small-time operator who runs his factory like a stall in the souk. There are about 20,000 "establishments" engaged in some sort of construction or industrial activity in addition to the 1,600 licensed factories.

A large proportion of the small-timers will disappear in the shakeout. Now, they are just hanging on.

One analyst said, "There are a lot of long pockets supporting ailing projects. They refuse to accept that they are making a loss."

Then there is an important group in the middle ground. They have seen the need for change, invested in modern equipment and brought in expatriate management, but do not give the management its head, either because of financial restraints (the souk mentality permeating the boardroom) or because they insist on running the show themselves.

The industrial sector has not yet felt the brunt of the recession, as it has been relatively cushioned by the buoyancy of local demand; industrial production accounts for 15 percent of total demand.

However, a typical example of an industrial company that has been exposed to the downturn is Saudi Plastic Products Co., or Sappco, a supplier of plastic piping for agricultural and water and sewerage projects. Sappco grew and prospered on the back of the construction boom, becoming one of the largest PVC producers in the world. Its Riyadh plant has capacity for 38,000 metric tons a year of PVC and 4,200 tons a year of polystyrene insulation board. Demand for plastic piping is down from 100,000 tons a year in 1982 to 70,000 tons a year, and Sappco has

lowered its production accordingly, laying off a third of its 600 workers (most of them were accommodated in the parent company's other operations).

Although margins are down and competition is stiff, Sappco still hopes to cover about half the market's needs. According to its general manager, Abbas Aggad, customers are becoming more concerned about specifications, which is the company's best insurance against low-quality imports. "People are looking for quality as well as price," he said. The company is looking at new product lines: a new PVC window and ways in which PVC might be used in the frame building industry are being investigated, and after-sale services are being improved. Summing up the changes, Mr. Aggad said: "Before 1982 you have to make and sell. Now you have to sell and make."

A keen sense of the market's needs is a prerequisite in this market, as is entrepreneurial adaptability. One local, finding that the bottom fell out of his plastic straw business when soft-drink packaging changed, adapted his plastic extrusion lines to produce ball-point pens. He now has a thriving company.

Another essential requirement is tight diversified management and strong financial control. Unlike the

large commercial and industrial conglomerates, which have long lived with the concept of independent profit centers, the notion of having to give up control tends to strike at the identity of family businesses. Yet many now have to forgo control in the search for credit.

The first port of call is the bank. But the banks are wary about lending and in most cases are not properly geared up to term lending which is the kind of financing that companies increasingly need. Some family-owned limited liability companies assumed after the Saudi Basic Industries Corp. share issue earlier this year, and the ensuing publicity, that every Saudi citizen should acquire a stake in the country by buying shares and that any company could raise capital on the stock market.

"It amazes me to see these family companies come to offer their shares for the good of the country," said one banker. The government is committed to the principle of privatization of its own wealth-making operations and is anxious that large Saudi companies also go public, but untried private companies wanting to go to the market will face a long wait.

First, the nature of the stock market has not been decided. Hopes of developing a stock exchange took a knock from the *Souk*

al-Manakh crash in Kuwait. Now, with the downturn in the economy, there is even greater caution about share flotations. "If the stock exchange isn't on ice, it should be," a market analyst said.

Still, the authorities are pushing ahead cautiously with selected flotations, according to Abdul Aziz Dukhail, whose Consulting Center for Finance and Development is officially commissioned to prepare flotations. Four are in the pipeline: National Industries Co. (NIC), applications for which are now open, closing shortly before the end of the year; Saudi Pharmaceutical Industrial Co.; al-Rajhi Co. for Currency Exchange & Commerce; and Saudi Cable Co. On Commerce Ministry instructions, the issues are being phased and the Rajhi flotation is now not likely to come to the market before July, Mr. Dukhail said.

Meanwhile, all eyes are focused on NIC, on whose fortunes many hopes and reputations hang. NIC could not have chosen a worse time to come to the market, with share prices languishing at around half their historic highs, and confidence has not been helped by the government's instructions to state institutions to pull out of the company. Nevertheless, most market observers believe the 450-million-riyal issue (225 million paid up) will be oversubscribed. The minister of in-

dustry and electricity, Abdul Aziz al-Zamil, points out that the share float is relatively small. "NIC is [equivalent to] no more than one medium-sized plant, but the concept is very important," he said.

In the absence of investment banking, NIC will form an indispensable function in identifying, promoting and to some extent underwriting industrial projects by going into joint ventures with foreign partners and then selling a proportion of the equity to the public. In other cases, it will make investments, and the company also will have a division promoting and running service-related industries.

The first NIC launch will be Saudi Pharmaceutical Industrial Co., due in the market immediately after NIC. Mahsoun Jalal, the company's founder and chief executive,

has four other projects ready for launching: two in downstream refineries, one in tertiary plastics, and one in downstream iron and steel manufacturing, as well as five or six other ideas. Mr. Jalal pointed out that, contrary to some reports, NIC has no formal link with the Offset military/industrial funding program but will consider becoming involved with individual projects on their merits.

Mr. Zamil would like a number of companies like NIC to serve the market. They would form an important link, in the absence of a capital market, for limited liability companies wanting to become joint stock operations—for those middle-ground companies that want to develop but have no means of doing so.

—ALAN MACKIE

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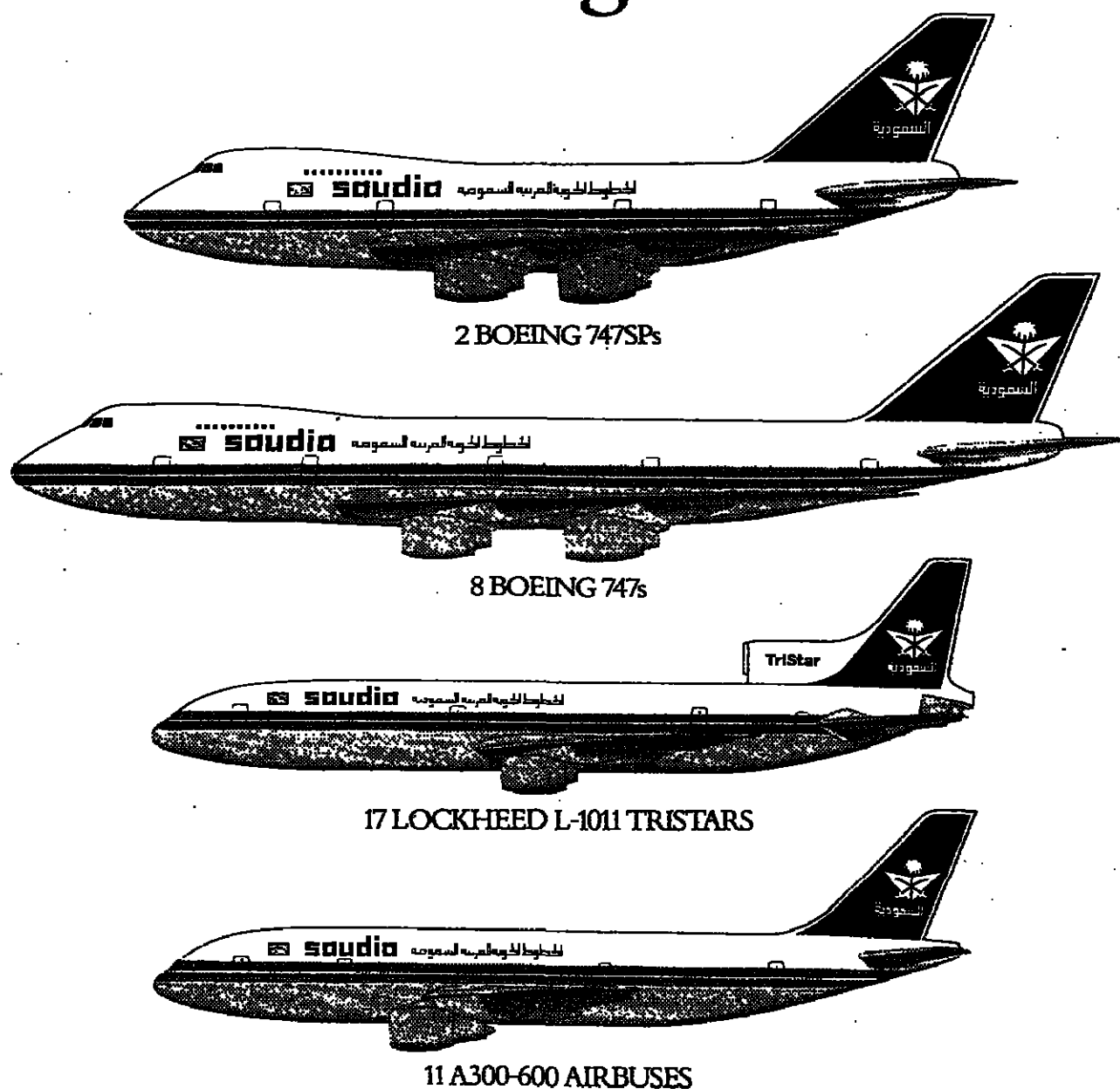
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EUROBONDS

Menu of New Issues Shows
Fading Taste for Gimmicks

By CARL GEWIRTZ

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Plain, old-fashioned vanilla was back in favor in the Eurobond market last week, as issues with bond warrants, delayed or partial payment or other gimmicks faded in popularity.

Instead, classically-structured straight debt — noncallable, fixed-coupon issues — dominated the calendar for new issues. Investment bankers hailed what they called the return of securities that investors want to buy.

But the investors in this case are obviously institutions — bond funds, pension funds and the like — rather than individuals. This was the inescapable conclusion to be drawn from the disparity between the return available on the new issues and the much higher return available on seasoned bond trading in the secondary market.

Only institutional investors who can claim a share of the 14-percent selling commission and, in some cases, an underwriting fee for participating in the new issues have an incentive to disregard higher-yielding paper on the secondary market.

The most notable of the new issues was for Kellogg, a triple-A rated U.S. corporate name, a class of borrower favored by the Swiss. It sold \$100 million of five-year notes at a discount of 99%, bearing a coupon of 10% percent, and \$100 million of seven-year paper at the same discount, bearing a coupon of 11 1/4 percent.

The coupon on the five-year note set a low in the current cycle of declining interest rates. Most interesting was the optical difference in coupon compared to the U.S. Treasury's sale of \$1 billion of five-year notes, which carried a coupon of 11 1/4 percent. The difference is smaller than would appear because Kellogg pays underwriting fees and selling commissions and the Treasury does not.

NEVERTHELESS, it demonstrates that, while the yield on the Treasury notes sets an important benchmark for this market, it is only a reference point rather than, as in New York, the absolute bottom. Bankers estimate that \$700 million of the Treasury paper was taken by Japanese investors.

This is the cause of some lament, as bankers claim that, with some much of the issue locked away in Tokyo, there is not enough paper available for trading and therefore the secondary market for these specially-targeted issues is not so liquid.

The reception of the \$100 million in five-year notes for the European Community appeared to confirm the focus on front-end fees rather than on value.

The EC notes were priced at par bearing a coupon of 11 1/4 percent — yielding about 20 basis points more than the Kellogg notes. But the gross commissions of 1 1/4 percent on the EC issue were less than the professionals wanted, and the notes traded at a steeper discount, 98%, than the 98% on the lower-yielding Kellogg paper.

Meanwhile, bankers were waxing enthusiastic about the ap-

(Continued on Page 19, Col. 4)

Economy
Steadies
In U.S.

Downturn Said
To Moderate

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. economy appeared to have settled into a lower level of activity in November, following a decline earlier in the fall, the National Association of Purchasing Management said Sunday in its monthly report.

Production and employment drifted lower in November and inventory levels remained unchanged, the association said. It said the speed of vendor deliveries improved slightly, confirming a continuing lower level of business.

The Purchasing Managers' Composite Index rose slightly to 52.1 percent in November from 50.8 percent in October, after having dropped to 49.6 percent in September, the report said.

According to the association, an index of more than 50 percent indicates the economy is expanding, while a reading below that level indicates a declining economy.

The index peaked this year at 61.5 percent in February, the association said.

The latest figures indicate that "the economy appears to be pausing in November, after declining for several months," said Robert J. Bretz, chairman of the association's business survey committee and director of corporate purchasing for Pitney Bowes Inc.

According to the report, 24 percent of the purchasing managers said employment was lower at their companies, compared with 20 percent in October and 14 percent in September. The percentage reporting lower employment was the highest since the 36 percent reported in January 1983.

Production growth rates declined for the fifth consecutive month, the report said. Only 18 percent of the purchasing managers surveyed reported higher production levels, the worst performance since December 1983, when only 7 percent reported better production.

The level of new orders, considered an important signal of future production, remained unchanged in November.



Britons lining up last week in London for BT shares.

BT Sale Boosts Kleinwort's Image

By Barnaby J. Feder

New York Times Service

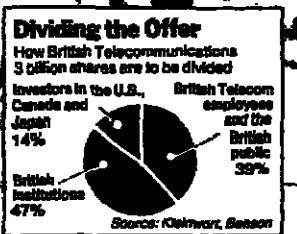
LONDON — One of the best kept secrets of the British Telecom PLC share offering completed last week has been the total fees paid to Kleinwort Benson Ltd., the merchant bank that planned and ran the historic £3.92-billion (\$4.76-billion) sale for the British government.

Although estimates have ranged up to £10.1 million, City of London sources say between £2.9 million and £4.2 million is more plausible. Analysts judge

that the return was modest, given management time devoted to the two-year BT project and the risk to the bank's image had the sale gone awry.

"The real advantage to Kleinwort from this has to be the gain for their reputation," said John Tyce, an analyst who follows merchant banks for Laing & Cruickshank, a London stock-broking firm. "Previous experience tells us that the margin on privatization deals for the government is slim."

The investment in a more sus-



Source: Kleinwort, Benson

Offering Is 4-Times Oversubscribed

LONDON — The British government's sale of shares in British Telecom PLC was more than four times oversubscribed, Kleinwort Benson Ltd., the lead underwriters, said Sunday.

Applications for the British part of the offer totaled 12.75 billion shares. The government is selling 3.01 billion shares amounting to just over half the company's ordinary share capital.

Within this offering, 415 million shares are being sold under separate arrangements in North America and Japan: 180 million to each the United States and Japan and 55 million to Canada.

Trading in the new shares will begin Monday at 3 P.M. London time in London, New York and Toronto.

Due to the oversubscription, allocations under the British offering are being heavily scaled down in favor of the small investor. Kleinwort Benson said applicants for 200 to 400 shares will be allocated in full. Applicants for 800 shares will get 500, while those for 1,200 will get 600. Investors wanting between 1,600 and 100,000 shares will only get 800. No allocations will go to those wanting more than 100,000 shares.

British Telecom employees wanting up to 20,000 shares will be satisfied in full, but no staff member will get more than 20,000.

Overall, the British Telecom issue is being 47.4 percent sold to institutional investors, under arrangements announced in November, and 34.3 percent to the public. Telecom staff and pensioners get 4.6 percent and North America and Japan, 13.7 percent.

Comsat Drops
Satellite Plan,
Cites Big Risks

By Andrew Pollack

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A proposed joint venture that would broadcast television programs from satellites directly to home antennas has fallen apart, casting a cloud over the future of a promising new technology.

Communications Satellite Corp., the first company to formally propose a direct broadcast satellite service, said Friday it had ceased negotiating with its two prospective partners, Prudential Insurance Co. of America and Douglas F. Ruhe, chief executive and co-owner of United Press International. Citing "unacceptable" risks, Comsat said it was abandoning most of its effort in the field and would take a \$24-million pre-tax write-off.

In response, Prudential announced that it was close to shutting down its existing venture in that business, United Satellite Communications Inc. United Satellite is the only company that actually provides direct satellite-to-home broadcasts, but it has been having financial troubles.

"Prudential has substantial concerns about its investment in USCI in light of Comsat's decision," Prudential said. United Satellite's directors will meet soon to consider the company's future, it added.

Prudential, which owns 51 percent of United Satellite, said it had invested \$68 million in the company. Other shareholders include General Instrument Corp.

Comsat, based in Washington, filed the first proposal for a direct broadcast satellite service in 1980, saying it would require \$1 billion to build a system that would serve the country by the late 1980s. The company tried but failed to find partners to share the risk.

When United Satellite started service in November 1983, company officials said they expected to have one million customers within three years. But after one year the company has attracted only 10,000 customers.

The withdrawal from the business of the only participant and the leading prospective participant could seriously dampen the prospects of a technology that a few years ago was generating great excitement.

However, there are still several companies that have proposed to the Federal Communications Commission to offer direct satellite broadcast systems to homes. Those ventures are not likely to start operating for two more years.

The idea of direct broadcast satellite systems is to beam television programs directly from special satellites to rooftop antennas.

Irving Goldstein, president of Comsat, said that the proposed venture "was simply too great a risk and too great a burden" for his company to endure.

FDIC Forces
Bank Changes

New York Times Service

CHICAGO — The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which saved Continental Illinois National Bank & Trust Co. from bankruptcy last summer, is requiring 10 of its 16 directors to resign.

John E. Swearingen, the new chairman of the bank's holding company, will announce the move Monday, banking officials said. Among the directors being asked to step down are chairmen of some leading U.S. corporations.

Federal banking officials said privately Saturday that they had taken the unusual step of asking for the resignation of the board members to help signal other boards that they should oversee their bank's officers more closely to help reduce the risks of bad loans and bank failures.

After arranging a \$4.5-billion rescue for Continental, the FDIC was given the power to demand changes in the bank's management, and indicated it would do so. Mr. Swearingen, who was not asked to step down, was said to have objected to the agency's demand because it could disrupt the bank's operation.

Low Swedish-Note Price Shocks Eurodollar Experts

By Carl Gewirtz

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Note-issuance facilities, those hybrid financial instruments which straddle the bank-credit market and public-securities market, broke new ground in the Eurodollar market last week.

Sweden demonstrated how cheaply money can be raised; Nestlé showed the market is broadening by launching a \$1-billion facility, the largest yet for a corporate borrower; and Merrill Lynch attempted to redefine how the notes are distributed.

The major development was Sweden's putting up for auction \$200 million of short-term notes, its first drawing on a \$4-billion facility arranged a few months ago. The winning bids were priced from

13.56 basis points (0.1356 percent) to 35 basis points below the London interbank bid rate. The average cost to Sweden was 14.83 basis points below Libid.

The pricing was a shocker. Some experts contend that it heralds the beginning of the end of the inter-

SYNDICATED LOANS

bank rate as the base rate for the floating-rate sector of the Eurodollar market.

The interbank offered rate (Libor) is the rate at which banks lend money while the bid rate (Libid) is what banks pay to attract time deposits, generally for a minimum of \$5 million.

The Swedish pricing shows that

non-bank clients do not have ready access to the bid, or deposit, rate and are willing to accept substantially less both for high-quality investment and for the opportunity to diversify away from unique reliance on banks as deposit outlets.

Depending on how hungry a bank is for deposits, non-bank clients will generally earn less than Libid. These clients will be offered certificates of deposit. Currently, CDs from a top-class U.S. bank pay 25 basis points less than the quoted Libid rate for the same maturity.

Until now, depositors had limited choices. They could accept this below-Libid rate from the top banks, put their money with lesser quality banks at Libid (or perhaps even higher for ever riskier quality), or buy floating-rate notes priced at Libid, Limean (the mean of the bid and offered rate), or Libor — and often carrying a margin over the base rate.

The problem with FRNs is that they are medium-term securities, meaning there is no guarantee that the paper can be sold at the same price it was bought before final maturity. It is generally expected that the notes will trade at par value on any interest fixing date — but that is not a certainty.

Enter Euronotes. These are short-term securities which are redeemed at face value and then re-issued. The investor thus runs no capital risk, assuming of course the issuer is a good credit risk and does not default.

That these instruments appeal to non-bank institutional investors is demonstrated by the fact that \$192 million of Sweden's maiden offering was taken by Credit Suisse First Boston for resale to its clients.

At almost the same time, Sweden had also put up for auction \$700 million of 20-year FRNs that can be redeemed in five years at par. The accepted bids ranged from a high of 99.42 percent of face value to a low of 99.28 percent. The average price was 99.31. The cost for Sweden, on a discounted value basis, to the first put in five years works out to 17 basis points over Libid, which is the stated interest rate.

Thus, there is a gap of almost 30 basis points between the 13.6 basis points below Libid on the three-month Euronotes and the 17 basis points over Libid on the five-year FRNs.

Offered along with the FRNs were income rights, which investors could buy for \$70 each to generate the additional income needed to lift the return to a small premium over Libor. This was needed, lead manager Morgan Guaranty Trust thought, to enhance the appeal of the notes to investors who want assets based on Libor to match their liabilities based on Libor.

Morgan originally expected not more than 30 percent of the income

rights to be taken. But in fact just over 50 percent of the FRN subscribers took the income rights.

Nestlé is planning to raise a \$1-billion, three-year note facility to help finance its \$3-billion takeover offer of Carnation Co. The facility can be canceled within 90 days if the bid is not approved. The facility is structured to give Nestlé access to a very low cost of funds if the notes (or commercial paper) are sold to investors and to give the bank a very generous return if they are forced to take the notes.

In the first year, the full \$1 billion is available for drawing; in the second year this drops to \$600 million, and in the final year to \$300 million.

This will be a backstop to the sale of Euronotes or commercial paper in New York. The Euronotes can be offered for maturities of one, two, three or six months and Nestlé has the right to ask banks to try to sell 12-month notes on a best-efforts basis.

Banks are being invited to underwrite a maximum of \$500 million worth of Euronotes (for banks who have no New York office and cannot back the sale of commercial paper) or a portion that may be more than \$500 million to back Euronotes or commercial paper. Underwriters are asked to take \$10 million, \$20 million or \$50 million, but an underwriting fee of 1/32 percent, or 3.13 basis points, will be paid only to those taking \$50 million. This rises to 5 basis points for each of the following two years or in the first year, if the banks are asked to supply funds.

Fees to issue the Euronotes range from zero (if less than one-third of the total facility is used this way), to 7.5 basis points for up to two-thirds usage and to 15 basis points if more is used. Thus, the maximum cost on this portion is 20 basis points.

The notes, if offered, will bear interest pegged to Libor. A tender panel will bid for the notes and the maximum yield Nestlé will accept — at which point the underwriters take the notes — is set at Libor. Actually, manager Credit Suisse First Boston expects the paper could be sold at 3/4-point below Libor (which is equal to 3/4-point below Libid).

If the "swingline" backing up commercial paper is used, interest will be set at the prime rate and banks will earn a drawing fee of 1 basis point. The swingline can be used for a maximum of seven consecutive days.

The tender panel system of issuing notes — wherein banks submit competitive bids and may or may not receive paper at a range of prices deemed acceptable — is considered by many banks to be self-destructive as the banks are asked to compete against themselves. In

(Continued on Page 19, Col. 7)

NEW ISSUE

All these Bonds have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

November 30, 1984



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ECU 75,000,000 10% per cent. Bonds of 1984, due 1994

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Banque Nationale de Paris Société Générale de Banque S.A.
Swiss Bank Corporation International Limited

Amro International Limited Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A.
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Abu Dhabi Investment Company Al-Mal Group Banca Commerciale Italiana Banca del Gottardo Banco di Roma
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Bergan Bank A/S Berliner Handels- und Bankbank Bank Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat, Banque de l'Etat
Caisse Générale d'Epargne et de Retraite/Algemene Spaar- en Leijfrentekas CERA-Centrale Raiffeisenkas C.V.-Belgium
Chase Manhattan Capital Markets Group Chemical Bank International Group CIBC Limited Citicorp Capital Markets Group
Compagnie de Banque et d'Investissements, CBI Compagnie Monégasque de Banque County Bank Crédit Agricole
Crédit Agricole-Banque Cr. Comm. de Belgique S.A./Gemeenschappelijke van België N.V. Crédit Européen S.A. Crédit Général
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Svenska Handelsbanken Group Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) United Overseas Bank (Luxembourg) S.A.
Weendeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale Wood Gundy Inc. Yamaichi International (Europe) Zentralsparkasse und Kommerzbank, Wien

International Bond Prices - Week of Nov. 29

Provided by White Weld Securities, London, Tel: 623-1277; a Division of Financière Cédit Suisse-First Boston
Prices may vary according to market conditions and other factors.

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New Eurobond Issues

Issuer	Amount (millions)	Maturity	Coupon %	Price	Yield at offer	Price end week	Terms
FLOATING RATE NOTES							
Korea First Bank	\$20	1989	1/4	100	—	—	Over 6-month Libor. Redeemable at par in 1989. Floating rate certificates of deposit in denominations of \$500,000.
Sweden	\$700	2005	libid	99.31	—	99.23	Interest pegged to 6-month rate for Eurodollars. Minimum coupon 5 1/8%. Callable at par after 1989 and redeemable at par in 1989, 1994 and 1999. Sold by tender. Denominations \$10,000.
All Nippon Airways	¥50	1991	1/4	100	—	100	Over 3-month Libor. Callable at par in 1989. Fees 0.25%.
Korea Exchange Bank	¥100	1994	1/4	100	—	98.68	Over 3-month Libor. Minimum coupon 5 1/8%. Callable at par in 1989 and redeemable at par in 1989, 1994 and 1999. Sold by tender. Denominations \$10,000.
Heron Int'l Finance	ECU 40	1991	1/4	100	—	98.75	Over 6-month Libor. Minimum coupon 6%. Callable at par in 1989. Fees 1 1/8%. Each 10,000-ecu note with five 3-yr warrants, each exercisable at par into a 1,000-ecu note of company's 1 1/8% bonds of 1992, scheduled to 1997 with new terms.
FIXED-COUPON							
Amica Int'l	\$50	1999	12 1/4	99 1/2	12.32	98.13	Callable and redeemable at par in 1989 when new terms may be set.
American Brands	\$100	1987	11	100	11	98.75	Noncallable.
American Brands	\$10	1987	—	100	—	100	Each warrant is exercisable at par into a \$1,000 note of company's noncallable 11 1/4% of 1989.
Centrust Savings & Loans	\$1,200	2010	zero	99 1/2	11.91	98.75	Noncallable. Backed by U.S. Government securities. Proceeds \$72 million. Payable Feb. 1. Denominations \$100,000.
European Community	\$100	1990	11 1/2	100	11 1/2	98.25	Noncallable. Payable Feb. 1.
Household Finance	\$100	1992	11 1/2	99 1/2	11.71	97.25	Noncallable. Payable Jan. 15.
Kellogg	\$100	1990	10 1/2	99 1/2	10.91	98.63	First callable at par in 1989. Payable Jan. 15.
Kellogg	\$100	1992	11 1/2	99 1/2	11.28	99.03	First callable at par in 1990. Payable Jan. 15.
Queensland Government Development Authority	\$100	1989	11 1/2	100	11 1/2	99.00	Noncallable.
Sanwa Int'l Finance	¥150	1992	11 1/2	100	11 1/2	98.63	Sinking fund to produce a 6-yr average life. Payable Jan. 16.
East Asiatic	DM 100	1991	7 1/4	100	7 1/4	98.50	First callable at 101 in 1989.
South Africa	DM 250	1992	7 1/4	100	7 1/4	98.50	Noncallable.
Union Electrica Fenosa	DM 100	1992	7 1/4	100	7 1/4	98.50	Noncallable.
World Bank	¥50	1989	10 1/2	99 1/2	10.70	98.38	Noncallable.
World Bank	¥50	1994	11	99 1/2	11.04	98.38	Noncallable.
Crédit National	ECU 50	1994	10 1/2	100	10 1/2	99.75	Noncallable.
Allied Corp.	¥10,000	1991	6 1/2	100	6 1/2	98.75	First callable at 100 1/2 in 1989.
Pacific Gas & Electric	¥20,000	1995	7	100	7	98.63	Noncallable.
Sears Roebuck	¥12,500	1991	6 1/2	100	6 1/2	99.63	Noncallable.
Swedish Export Credit	¥12,000	1991	6 1/2	99 1/2	6.82	98.25	Sinking fund to start in 1987 to produce a 5.33-yr average life.
LTGB Finance	CS 75	1990	11 1/2	100 1/2	11.68	98	Noncallable. Payable Jan. 10.
LTGB Finance	0.05	1990	—	100 1/2	—	—	Each warrant is exercisable at par into a \$1,000 note of company's noncallable 11 1/2% of 1992.
New Brunswick	CS 75	1995	12	100 1/2	11.91	97.25	Noncallable. Payable Jan. 24.
James Hardie Industries	Aus 30	1989	13	100	13	98.63	Noncallable.
Dunlop Olympic	NZ\$ 25	1990	15 1/2	100	15 1/2	98.50	Noncallable. Payable Jan. 15.
EQUITY-LINKED							
NEC	\$150	2000	open	100	—	99.88	Semiannual coupon indicated at 3 1/4%. First callable at 104 in 1988. Convertible at an anticipated 5% premium. Terms to be set Dec. 3.
Sumitomo Realty & Development	\$40	1989	8	100	8	101	Noncallable. Convertible into company's shares at 500 yen a share, no premium. Exchange rate set at 246.50 yen per dollar.
Tsugami	\$20	2000	3 1/4	100	3 1/4	98.75	Semiannual. First callable at 104 in 1987. Convertible into company's shares at 500 yen a share, a 1.82% premium. Exchange rate set at 247.25 yen per dollar.
Yamaichi	\$20	1995	3 1/4	100	3 1/4	99.75	First callable at 103 1/2 in 1987. Convertible into company's shares at 500 yen a share, a 1.82% premium. Exchange rate set at 247.25 yen per dollar.
Yamaichi	\$20	2000	3 1/4	100	3 1/4	99.75	First callable at 104 in 1995. Convertible into company's shares at 500 yen a share, a 1.82% premium. Exchange rate set at 247.25 yen per dollar.
Fuji Electric	DM 120	1990	open	100	—	100.50	Coupon indicated at 3 1/4%. Noncallable. Each 5,000-mark bond with one warrant exercisable into an equal amount of company's shares at an anticipated 25% premium. Terms to be set Dec. 5.
Linde Int'l	DM 150	1994	3 1/4	100	3 1/4	106.50	Each 1,000-mark bond with 10 warrants exercisable into 3 company's shares at 362 marks each, a 1.8% premium.
UBS Finance	DM 200	1991	3	100	3	99	Noncallable. Each 5,000-mark bond with one 3-yr warrant exercisable into 1 company's share at 3,650 francs, a 4.3% premium.

Growth in M-1 Causes A Slight Drop in Prices

By James Sterngold
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Continuing negative reaction to the unexpectedly sharp increase in the U.S. money supply has forced interest rates slightly upward and bond prices a bit lower.

The \$6.7-billion jump announced Thursday in M-1, a measure of money-supply growth

U.S. CREDIT MARKETS

which includes currency in circulation, travelers checks and checking deposits at financial institutions, indicated that the money stock would show substantial growth in November, reversing a decline in October.

That, in turn, suggested to investors that the Federal Reserve could halt its recent efforts to lower interest rates, analysts said.

"People were still digesting the money numbers; I think there is a lot less optimism about the Fed easing further now," said Timothy

Howard, senior vice president and chief economist for the Federal National Mortgage Association.

Several economists said that the two-day decline hit the longer-term bonds in particular because investors had bid them higher in anticipation that the Fed might force interest rates still lower. Now the bonds adjusted to the new expectations, the economists said.

Also hurting the market was a slight rise in the closely-watched rate on Fed funds, reserves that banks lend one another. The Fed funds rate rose as high as 9 3/16 percent on Friday, up from an 8.63 percent average on Thursday.

Bond prices fluctuated within a narrow range Friday. At the longer end, the Treasury's 30-year, 11.75 percent bonds fell 12 1/2 points on the day to 107 1/2, offering for a yield of 11.53 percent, up from 11.47 percent the previous day.

On the short end, three-month and six-month Treasury bills were little changed.

U.S. Consumer Rates

For Week Ended Nov. 30	
Passbook Savings	5.50 %
Time Deposit	10.04 %
Money Market Funds	
Dreyfus's 7-Day Average	9.09 %
Bank Money Market Accounts	9.14 %
Bank Rate Monitor Index	9.14 %
Home Mortgages	14.72 %
FHLB average	

Mr. Howard said the market appeared to be leveling off after gains that followed the Federal Reserve's half-point reduction in its discount rate on Nov. 21.

He predicted that the market "is close to settling into a range," without a great deal of movement likely either up or down. "Don't expect bonds or Fed funds to move a lot for a while," Mr. Howard said.

Jeffrey R. Leeds, a managing director of Chemical Capital Markets Group, said Friday: "The Fed is probably finished at this point. Insofar as the market had anticipated further easing and built that into prices, it gave up some of that yesterday and today."

He added, though, that the increase in the money supply was a welcome sign, suggesting that the economy may show some new life later on.

Price of Swedish Notes Shocks Loans Experts

(Continued from Page 17)

addition, it's believed that a uniform price from all sellers would facilitate the marketing effort.

Thus, Merrill Lynch is proposing a new technique — what it calls the "issuer-set margin" (ISM) — in its operation to raise \$50 million for India's Bank of Baroda. The issuer, in consultation with the underwriters, will set a price on the notes. Senior underwriters have the right, but no obligation, to take their share of the notes. Merrill Lynch will place the notes of the junior underwriters or the unwanted notes of the senior underwriters.

Merrill says ISM provides a simpler, more equitable pricing method than existing systems. If the rate on the notes is set too low, senior underwriters can refuse to take them and Merrill may or may not be able to place them. If there is no placement, allocation is made at the maximum rate which is Baroda's seven-year facility is to be set at about 20 basis points over Libor.

Australia's Wheat Board is arranging a \$500-million, two-year note facility. It would issue one-to-six-month notes (or paper longer than six-months which would not be underwritten, but marketed by banks on a best-efforts basis) with interest set at a maximum 1/4-point over Libor. It will pay an underwriting fee of 10 basis points on the drawn amounts or a minimum of 5 basis points if no drawings are made.

At the same time, the Wheat Board is expanding to \$450 million its one-year evergreen, or renewable line of bankers' acceptances. This started out as a \$100-million facility in 1983 and was increased to \$250 million earlier this year.

In the classic syndicated loan market, Algeria's Banque Nationale d'Algérie and Crédit Populaire d'Algérie are seeking a \$500-million, eight-year loan. Interest is to be set at 1/2-point over Libor for the first five years, falling to 3/4-point for the final three years. Repayment of the loans begins after five years, so the lower margin will apply to a smaller amount.

IRI, the Italian state holding company, is seeking a 10-year loan of 300 million European Currency Units at terms that many bankers say they find unacceptably low. Interest is to be set at 1/4-point over the interbank offered rate for the first two years and 3/4-point thereafter. The management fee totals 1/2 percent and a commitment fee of 15 basis points will be paid on undrawn amounts.

Turkey is sounding out the market for a \$500-million, seven-year loan with interest set at 1 1/2-point over Libor. Banks would be asked to submit competitive bids for short-term advances and if these bids were fully used underwriters would earn an annual 1/2 percent facility fee. However, many bankers say they see no reason why they should bid against themselves for short-term loans to a borrower of Turkey's credit standing.

Market Cools On Gimmicks

(Continued from Page 17)

pearance of Queensland Government Development Authority, which is raising \$100 million for five-year bonds at 11 1/2 percent. This is the first Eurodollar bond offering from an Australian state, and bankers predict that the other states will become major borrowers along the line of the Canadian provinces.

Noteworthy in the warrant market is that two issues on offer — American Brands in U.S. dollars and Long Term Credit Bank in Canadian dollars — are using the more popular, older formula of non-callable "front" bonds.

American Brands' \$100 million of three-year, noncallable notes bear a coupon of 11 percent. The warrants, which also run for three years, can buy noncallable 11 1/2 percent notes maturing in 1989. The warrants were offered at \$12 each and ended the week at \$15.

LTGB offered 75 million dollars of five-year noncallable notes bearing a coupon of 11 1/2 percent and a premium of 100 1/2, reducing the yield to 11.68 percent. Its five-year warrants, offered at 22 1/2 dollars, can buy noncallable 11 1/2 percent bonds maturing in 1992.

The floating rate market got a jolt last week when the Bank of England began circulating its formal proposals on how banks can include the proceeds of debt issues into their capital.

The timing was sooner than expected and the proposals tougher — the debt must be noncallable and convertible into equity if the bank runs into difficulties.

Coming on top of its warning in May that banks holding subordinated bank-issued FRNs must deduct these from their own capital base, the Bank of England moves are seen as severely restricting the market for bank-issued FRNs.

The view in the marketplace is that U.S. and Japanese bank regulators will not be far behind in applying similar restrictions on the issuance and holding of such paper. As a result, bankers expect that the FRN market will now be dominated by sovereign borrowers looking for cheaper finance than direct bank loans.

Tokyo Average Sets Record

TOKYO — The Tokyo Stock Exchange average on Saturday rose 8.80 to close at a record 11,437.70.

BT Sale Boosts Kleinwort's Image

(Continued from Page 17)

terms, but *uninspiring* in comparison to the capital base of the large U.S. investment banks with which Kleinwort is increasingly competing.

At home, Kleinwort agreed to acquire Grievson Grant, one of London's largest stockbrokers, last June. "We need to be able to service everyone from corporate issuers at one end of a stock issue to the investors at the other," said Mr. Jacobson, explaining Kleinwort's strategic thinking in acquiring Grievson. "The borderline between banking and securities is blurring."

So is the significance for investors of national borders. Both

trends are fueling Kleinwort's overseas expansion. Last spring, the merchant bank acquired Chicago-based ACLI Government Securities from Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, making it the first foreign dealer of one of the 37 primary dealers in United States government bonds.

ACLI's name was changed to Kleinwort Benson Government Securities Inc. and added to a New York-based stable of securities, banking, and bullion-trading subsidiaries. The U.S. ventures involve activities Asia, Europe, Latin America and the offshore British territories of the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

This increasingly diverse empire

is managed by 43 executive directors, four of whom are based overseas. They report to two vice chairmen, the Earl of Limerick and Mr. Jacobson, or Michael Hawkes, who succeeded R. A. Henderson as chairman and chief executive officer last year.

Prior to BT, Kleinwort advised on the sales of British Aerospace PLC, Cable & Wireless PLC, Associated British Ports PLC, and Enterprise Oil PLC. But unlike these other sales, the sale of BT was accompanied by an unprecedented \$10-million advertising campaign to attract small investors.

Such exposure has made Kleinwort the most widely known merchant bank in Britain.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only. The Notes were not registered in the United States. Offers and sales of the Notes in the United States or to United States nationals or residents were not made as a part of the distribution of the Notes and might constitute a violation of United States law if made within ninety (90) days after the completion of the distribution of the Notes.

U.S. \$100,000,000

Ford Motor Credit Company

12 7/8% Notes due October 1, 1991

Goldman Sachs International Corp.

Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft

Swiss Bank Corporation International Limited

Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) Limited

Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft

Algemene Bank Nederland N.V.	Amro International Limited	Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder, Inc.	Atlantic Capital Corporation
Julius Baer International Limited	Banca Commerciale Italiana	Banco Urquijo Hispano Americano	
BankAmerica Capital Markets Group	Bank Gutzwiller, Kurz, Buegener (Overseas)	Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft Aktiengesellschaft	
Bank Leu International Ltd.	Bank J. Vontobel & Co. AG	Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.	
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Banque Populaire Suisse S.A. Luxembourg	Banque Privée de Gestion Financière	Banque de l'Union Européenne	
Banque Worms	Barclays Bank Group	Bayerische Hypothek- und Wechsel-Bank	Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale
Bayerische Vereinsbank	Berliner Bank	Berliner Handels- und Frankfurter Bank	B.S.I. Underwriters
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CLN Oyens & van Eeghen N.V.	Compagnie de Banque et d'Investissements, CBI	Compagnie Monégasque de Banque S.A.	
Copenhagen Handelsbank A/S	County Bank Limited	Crédit Commercial de France	Credito Italiano
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Den norske Creditbank	DG BANK	Deutsche Girozentrale	DEWFIN SA
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Hill Samuel & Co. Limited	IBJ International Limited	Kansallis-Osake-Pankki	Kidder, Peabody International
Kreditbank N.V.	Kreditbank S.A. Luxembourgeoise	Lloyds Bank International Limited	London & Continental Bankers
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Norddeutsche Landesbank	Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie.	Österreichische Länderbank Aktiengesellschaft	Orion Royal Bank
PaineWebber International	Pierson, Holding & Pierson N.V.	PK Christiania Bank (UK)	Postipankki
Rabobank Nederland	Richardson Greenfields of Canada (U.K.) Limited	L. F. Rothschild, Unterberg, Towbin	N. M. Rothschild & Sons
Sanwa International Limited	J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited	Singer & Friedlander	Sparbankernas Bank
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Svenska Handelsbanken Group	Swiss Bank Corporation International Securities Inc.	Toronto Dominion International Limited	
Union Bank of Finland Ltd.	Vereins- und Westbank Aktiengesellschaft	S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.	Wardley London Limited
Westdeutsche Landesbank	Wood Gundy Inc.	Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited	Yasuda Trust Europe

October, 1984

Treasury Bills

Term	Bid	Ask	Yld
13-week	7.14	7.28	7.32
26-week	6.79	6.91	6.94
1-year	6.75	6.85	6.88
2-year	6.75	6.85	6.88
3-year	6.75	6.85	6.88
4-year	6.75	6.85	6.88
5-year	6.75	6.85	6.88
10-year	6.75	6.85	6.88
30-year	6.75	6.85	6.88

Richardson Savings & Loan Bank and Trust Company
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180 Day Eurodeposit amounts over \$100,000 U.S.

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Gold Options

Month	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
20	10.00	10.00	10.00
30	10.00	10.00	10.00
40	10.00	10.00	10.00
50	10.00	10.00	10.00
60	10.00	10.00	10.00
70	10.00	10.00	10.00
80	10.00	10.00	10.00
90	10.00	10.00	10.00
100	10.00	10.00	10.00

Values White Gold S.A.
1, Quai de Mont-Saint
121 Geneva 1, Switzerland
Tel. 31 82 33 - Telex 28 305

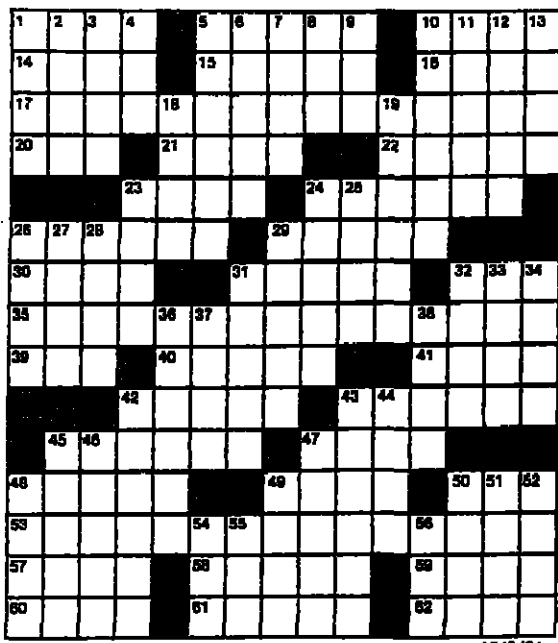
NEW JAPAN SECURITIES CO., LTD.



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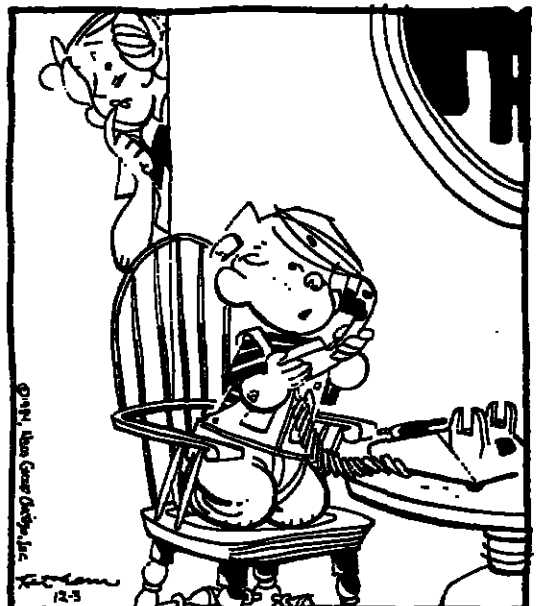
1 Fleishy fruit
5 Baity item
10 Wine city
14 Top-notch
15 Mrs. Paul
16 McCartney
17 Marquand
18 Mahogany tree
20 Like bright
21 Decree
22 Partner of
23 Leg covering
24 Sneer at
26 Squire's place
28 Dance of the
16th century
30 Gossip away
31 Like a bucket
in a song
32 Wager
33 Speed contest
35 Baseball great
40 Eastern V.I.P.
41 Erupter at
least 140 times
42 Strike
43 Land of plenty
45 Finagles
47 Assamese
export
48 Fleeced
49 Israeli port

DOWN

50 Rearward, on
a ship
53 Baseball thrill
57 Soon
58 Good-night girl
59 Stage
60 Undraped
61 Peeled
62 Paradise
1 Hemingway's
nickname
2 Lasso end
3 Army group
4 Fellows
5 Hintlike
6 Garand, e.g.
7 Queen or
princess
8 Wedding
words
9 Women's org.
10 Reach
11 Free from
flaws
12 Bakery item
13 Hotels in the
hinterlands
18 Gait for a
standardbred
19 Purposeful trip
23 Arm ending
24 Senegalese
port
25 Eternally
26 Repeat
27 Close
28 Hue
29 Recipient of a
check
31 He wrote
"Waiting for
Lefty"
32 Saturday-night
special
33 Serf
34 Comparative
word
36 Order back
into custody
37 Give forth
38 Kind of job or
set
42 Calm
43 Scoffed; jeered
44 Margarine
45 Dishes
46 Fame
47 Play part
48 Thick slice
49 Declare
50 Asleep,
perhaps
51 Run away
52 Sea bird
54 Kind of tide
55 Nest-egg acct.
56 Consume

© New York Times, edited by Eugene Malachuk.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU MUST HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER... OUR LITTLE BOY DON'T EVEN HAVE A DOG!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEKOH

GURPE

RANCL

MUBHEL

Now arrange the circled letters to form a five-letter word.

Print answer here: _____

Friday's Jumbles: PUPIL EPOCH CORPSE FROLIC

Answer: They might be UP CLOSE—COUPLES!

WEATHER

EUROPE	HIGH	LOW	WIND	PRECIP.	EUROPE	HIGH	LOW	WIND	PRECIP.
Algeria	15	9	4	0	Berlin	25	17	20	0
Athens	14	8	3	0	Bombay	28	22	10	0
Bombay	28	22	10	0	Buenos Aires	20	14	10	0
Buenos Aires	20	14	10	0	Calcutta	28	22	10	0
Calcutta	28	22	10	0	Cairo	24	18	10	0
Cairo	24	18	10	0	Caracas	28	22	10	0
Caracas	28	22	10	0	Chennai	28	22	10	0
Chennai	28	22	10	0	Cebu	28	22	10	0
Cebu	28	22	10	0	Dakar	28	22	10	0
Dakar	28	22	10	0	Dhaka	28	22	10	0
Dhaka	28	22	10	0	Disneyland	28	22	10	0
Disneyland	28	22	10	0	Dublin	28	22	10	0
Dublin	28	22	10	0	Edinburgh	28	22	10	0
Edinburgh	28	22	10	0	Hankow	28	22	10	0
Hankow	28	22	10	0	Hong Kong	28	22	10	0
Hong Kong	28	22	10	0	Kobe	28	22	10	0
Kobe	28	22	10	0	London	28	22	10	0
London	28	22	10	0	Los Angeles	28	22	10	0
Los Angeles	28	22	10	0	Manila	28	22	10	0
Manila	28	22	10	0	Moscow	28	22	10	0
Moscow	28	22	10	0	Mumbai	28	22	10	0
Mumbai	28	22	10	0	Nairobi	28	22	10	0
Nairobi	28	22	10	0	Paris	28	22	10	0
Paris	28	22	10	0	Rangoon	28	22	10	0
Rangoon	28	22	10	0	San Francisco	28	22	10	0
San Francisco	28	22	10	0	Seoul	28	22	10	0
Seoul	28	22	10	0	Singapore	28	22	10	0
Singapore	28	22	10	0	Taipei	28	22	10	0
Taipei	28	22	10	0	Tokyo	28	22	10	0
Tokyo	28	22	10	0	Yokohama	28	22	10	0
Yokohama	28	22	10	0					

PEANUTS



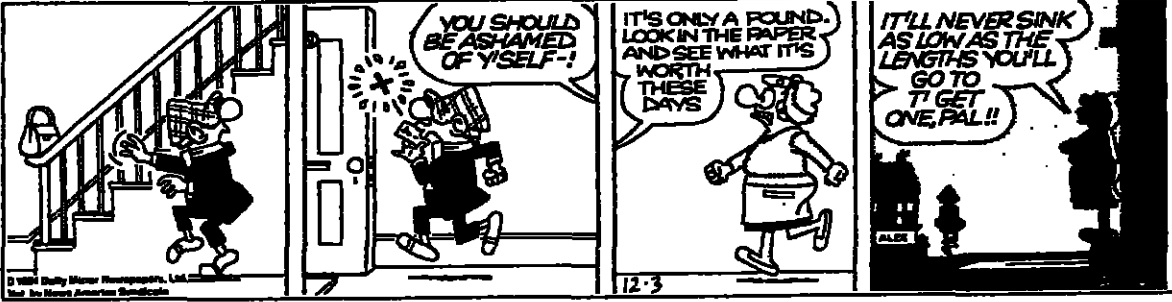
BLONDIE



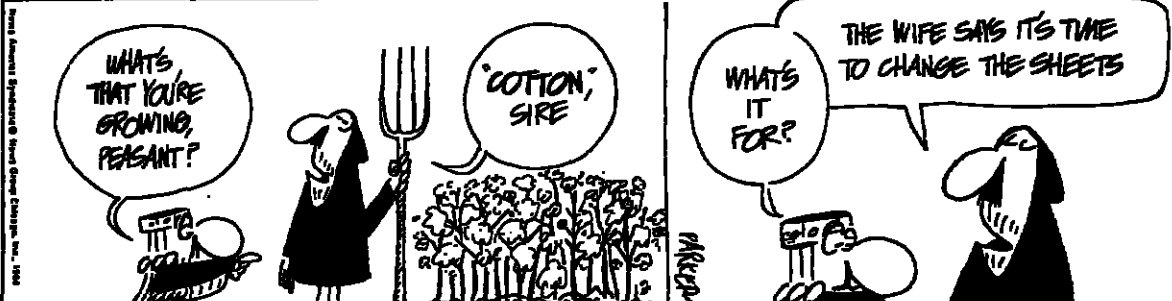
BEETLE BAILEY



ANDY CAPP



WIZARD of ID



REX MORGAN



GARFIELD



BOOKS

WITH HEMINGWAY:

A Year in Key West and Cuba

By Arnold Samuelson. 183 pp. \$16.95.
Random House, 201 East 50th Street,
New York, N. Y. 10022.

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley

THIS brief account of a year spent hanging around with Ernest Hemingway is an unexpected literary discovery, one of no particular moment but quite considerable charm. It was discovered among the papers of Arnold Samuelson upon his death in 1981 by his daughter, Diane Darby, who determined that it was more than mere Hemingway marginalia and that it deserved publication. Its value is not that it adds anything of importance to our understanding of Hemingway, but that it allows us to see him through the eyes of someone who knew him before the "Papa" image had been inflated to monstrous proportions.

Samuelson went to visit Hemingway in the spring of 1934. He was 22 years old, a native of a North Dakota hamlet called White Earth. He had completed his studies in journalism at the University of Minnesota but had not graduated because he declined to pay the diploma fee—an act characteristic of the iconoclasm that seems to have been central to his character. His visit to Hemingway was of a piece with that: He had read a story of Hemingway's, had decided that Hemingway could help him fulfill his own desire to be a writer, and promptly rode the rails to Key West in hopes of a fruitful conversation with him.

It turned out to be a lot more than that. Hemingway seems to have taken to the brash but innocent young man at once, or at least as soon as he realized that Samuelson had no ulterior motives in approaching him. Not merely did he chat with him about writing, he offered him a job, for the wage of a dollar a day, not to be successful at in those Depression years. Samuelson did various odd jobs around the Hemingway house and then did more of them aboard ship when Hemingway, his wife Pauline, their two sons and various cronies set

off for Cuba aboard the writer's spanking-new boat, the Pilar.

Samuelson's real function seems to have been less that of handyman than of admiring companion. In her introduction Darby quotes Hemingway's younger brother, Leicester: "Ernest was never very content with life unless he had a spiritual kid brother nearby. He needed someone he could show off to as well as teach. He needed uncritical admiration. If the kid brother could show a little worshipful awe, that was a distinct aid in the relationship. I made a good kid brother when I was around but I couldn't be around regularly."

But Samuelson was around for a whole year, and he seems to have played the role exactly right. He was admiring but not obsequious, and he brought off the difficult balancing act of being part of the Hemingway family on the one hand, yet servant to it on the other. He was an inept fisherman whom Hemingway could therefore instruct—his journal is crammed to a point that may drive some readers to seasickness, with fishing expeditions—and an apprentice writer to whom Hemingway could speak avuncularly about his craft. Most of what he had to say falls into the standard and rather pontifical Hemingway mold ("When you're still going good and you come to an interesting place and you know what's going to happen next, that's the time to stop"), but one paragraph stands out:

"Most writers keep on writing about their childhood until they're 40. They spend their youths concealing their love affairs and their old age revealing them. The best stuff you've got is from your farm life in North Dakota and your sister's murder. That's something nobody else can write and nobody can ever take it away from you, but you don't want to use it for a long time. Save your best stuff until you've learned how to handle it, because you can't write the same thing twice unless you rewrite it. Wait until you've learned how to become detached. In order to write tragedy you've got to be absolutely detached, no matter how much it hurts you. Tragedy is the peak of the art and that's the hardest thing there is to do. You never lose a story by not writing it."

That's sound advice, though it doesn't seem to have done Samuelson much good. Apart from selling a handful of magazine pieces, he never made it as a writer. But he did leave this manuscript, a posthumous achievement that is small but noteworthy. The Hemingway whom he gives us is a more attractive man than the "Papa" soon to emerge—affected and self-conscious, needless to say, but also generous and forthcoming. In tribute Samuelson writes: "He left me with that damned marvelous feeling you can have only once in a lifetime if you are a young man who wants to become a writer and you have just met the man you admire as the greatest writer alive and you know instinctively he is already your friend." Too often we lose sight of that side of Hemingway; we thus have Samuelson to thank for reminding us that it was there, and that it brought great pleasure to many people.

Jonathan Yardley is on the staff of The Washington Post.

Solution to Friday's Puzzle

DASH BELEM BOOP
ACHE UDINE ATLI
DIOR SHORTSTOPS
ADROIT NORTHSEA
TIRED LILI
GRENADERS CONSOL
LINEN ATKA GHEE
ALI ISRAELIS OSA
DENS AERY CURES
EDGIER RESETTLE
BAAS SONIC
ACCESSORIES ATLAST
SHORTORDER IKES
TALI TERRE TEMA
ONEA ASSAD YSER

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

ON the diagramed deal, without the club ace, East would no doubt have taken pre-emptive action. As it was, he did not want to exclude slam possibilities.

North's bid of three diamonds in response to the overall was an invitation to four spades, and South accepted when East bid four diamonds.

When West now continued to five diamonds, it was very difficult for North to appreciate that it was right to double.

He persevered to five spades, a contract that was open to the possibility of three quick club losers.

As it happened, the defenders' clubs were blocked. If West had led the club king, South would have had an easy task. However, he resisted that temptation and led the diamond ten, which was ruffed in dummy.

South could have made his contract by drawing two rounds of trumps, thanks to the even break. If the trumps had been split three-one, he would still have had some chance, but not a good one.

Instead, South attempted to ruff all his diamonds in the dummy, using the heart entries to his hand. He seemed to be in good shape when he had completed this operation and led a heart winner from the dummy.

East's ruff was no great surprise. South overruffed and entered dummy with a trump lead to the queen. He threw a club loser on the remaining heart winner, and now had to play a club.

Unfortunately for South, East won and performed a diamond. As South had had to use his spade ace for an earlier overruff, the trump ten in the West hand became a

killing card. South ruffed with the seven of spades, was overruffed and lost a second club trick for down one.

In the replay, North raised the overall directly to game. East bid five diamonds, and South was well-placed to double and collect 800 points, gaining 14 points for his team.

NORTH
♠ QJ83
♥ QK84
♦ 10765
♣ 108742

EAST
♠ 104
♥ 10852
♦ 102
♣ KQ85

SOUTH
♠ AK785
♥ 9
♦ Q95
♣ J93

Both sides were vulnerable. The bid: North 3♦, 4♦, 5♦, 6♦, 7♦, 8♦, 9♦, 10♦, 11♦, 12♦, 13♦, 14♦, 15♦, 16♦, 17♦, 18♦, 19♦, 20♦, 21♦, 22♦, 23♦, 24♦, 25♦, 26♦, 27♦, 28♦, 29♦, 30♦, 31♦, 32♦, 33♦, 34♦, 35♦, 36♦, 37♦, 38♦, 39♦, 40♦, 41♦, 42♦, 43♦, 44♦, 45♦, 46♦, 47♦, 48♦, 49♦, 50♦, 51♦, 52♦, 53♦, 54♦, 55♦, 56♦, 57♦, 58♦, 59♦, 60♦, 61♦, 62♦, 63♦, 64♦, 65♦, 66♦, 67♦, 68♦, 69♦, 70♦, 71♦, 72♦, 73♦, 74♦, 75♦, 76♦, 77♦, 78♦, 79♦, 80♦, 81♦, 82♦, 83♦, 84♦, 85♦, 86♦, 87♦, 88♦, 89♦, 90♦, 91♦, 92♦, 93♦, 94♦, 95♦, 96♦, 97♦, 98♦, 99♦, 100♦, 101♦, 102♦, 103♦, 104♦, 105♦, 106♦, 107♦, 108♦, 109♦, 110♦, 111♦, 112♦, 113♦, 114♦, 115♦, 116♦, 117♦, 118♦, 119♦, 120♦, 121♦, 122♦, 123♦, 124♦, 125♦, 126♦, 127♦, 128♦, 129♦, 130♦, 131♦, 132♦, 133♦, 134♦, 135♦, 136♦, 137♦, 138♦, 139♦, 140♦, 141♦, 142♦, 143♦, 144♦, 145♦, 146♦, 147♦, 148♦, 149♦, 150♦, 151♦, 152♦, 153♦, 154♦, 155♦, 156♦, 157♦, 158♦, 159♦, 160♦, 161♦, 162♦, 163♦, 164♦, 165♦, 166♦, 167♦, 168♦, 169♦, 170♦, 171♦, 172♦, 173♦, 174♦, 175♦, 176♦, 177♦, 178♦, 179♦, 180♦, 181♦, 182♦, 183♦, 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LANGUAGE

New Umbrella Unfolds

By William Safire
WASHINGTON — The umbrella, that symbol of appeasement of two generations ago, has been jerked out of its stand and metaphorically applied to a different diplomatic maneuver.

"We need to extend the arms-control process," President Ronald Reagan told the United Nations on Sept. 24, "to build a bigger umbrella under which it can operate; a road map, if you will, showing where during the next 20 years or so these individual efforts can lead."

The road map metaphor never got unfolded, but the umbrella did. After the election, a White House aide listed six areas, from weapons in space to conventional weapons in Europe, that could be discussed under what he termed *umbrella talks*.

Umbrella, taken from the Latin *umbra*, "shade," was snatched up into English in the 17th century as a noun for "the thing that turns inside out in the rain and leaves you soaking on a rainy day," to use the technical definition. It has been called a *brelly*, *broly*, *roundtop*, *shower stick*, *blub-blub* and *bumbushoot*.

In this century, the word has been used to evoke "protection" in many ways: during World War II, the commando raid on Dieppe was covered by an air armada called an *umbrella*. In 1950, when the New York Giants under coach Steve Owen introduced a pass defense of a six-man line with one linebacker and four defensive backs fanned out behind the line, this was dubbed the *umbrella defense*. More recently, the word has added a meaning of embracing a broad range of factors.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate quotes Diane Ravitch's phrase "building new colleges under a federation umbrella."

Fearless, Reagan took up the symbol that British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain made famous in his return from the Munich Conference in 1938 announcing after dismembering Czechoslovakia that he had brought "peace for our time." (Not "peace in our time," as often misquoted; the second phrase comes from the Anglican Morning Prayer.)

NO SOONER had Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin expressed mock puzzlement over our mysterious "umbrella proposals" than a White House spokesman piped up with this statement: "The entire idea has not been fleshed out to the Soviets."

The origin is in the idea of embodiment—specifically, clothing a skeleton in flesh. The first use of *flesh out* spotted by the Oxford English Dictionary cite-seers was in an 1886 novel: "A dainty bit of... word-painting, fleshed out and rendered thinkable." However, the OED has a use without the *out* that shows that the meaning goes back at least to 1661 and may have been popularized in this sense by scaptoles. A verbal illustration in Merriam-Webster's Third New Unabridged is, "The modeler builds up his figure by fleshing a wire frame with clay."

A snag in the fleshing-out, however, came with objections from Moscow about the translation of a word in a cultural agreement. The dispute is about *defectors*: The Russians want the U.S. to guarantee "security" — which, to Soviet authorities, means that ballet dancers who are sent here to dance do not dance off. The U.S. won't give any such guarantee, which would undermine the right of political asylum. The only thing it will guarantee is their safety.

The Russian word for safety is *bezopasnost*, which, as Bernard Gertman of The New York Times pointed out, is the same as the Russian word for security. The United States will go along with *bezopasnost* as long as the English translation says *safety*; the Russians, who take the position that all defectors are seduced or kidnapped, shake their heads. Presumably, the solution to this will come under the fleshed-out umbrella.

New York Times Service

The Comeback of Dean Stockwell

By Dorene Intemicola

NEW YORK — He was "Kim," "The Boy With the Green Hair," and that kid who sang with Frank Sinatra in "Anchors Aweigh."

But when he grew up, Dean Stockwell's career flickered briefly, dimmed and finally seemed to disappear.

Now, at 48, Stockwell is making a comeback in two films, the \$45-million science fiction blockbuster "Dune" and Wim Wenders' "Paris, Texas."

"If you haven't seen me around lately, it's because I've been waiting for something like this — for a long time," he said.

His return began two years ago, he said, when he kissed Hollywood goodbye and moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. "I moved there shortly after I married. I decided I have a family. To hell with Hollywood. I wanted a beautiful place."

"When I left I wasn't sure I'd ever work again, so I got a real estate license. I haven't used it. I wanted to change my life. I was wasting away there. I literally cleaned up. I never did a lot of drugs, but I stopped that entirely. And the family, it's a whole different life," said Stockwell, dressed in cowboy boots and western-style string tie and puffing a thin cigar.

As a juvenile actor, Stockwell starred in such landmark films as the 1948 anti-war movie "The Boy With the Green Hair" and "Gentleman's Agreement," a 1947 film about anti-Semitism. His last child role was in the 1950 film "Kim" with Errol Flynn, remembered as "a great guy who didn't patronize me."

His career surged briefly when he was in his 20s, and he played angry young men in the James Dean mode in "Compulsion," "Sons and Lovers" and "A Long Day's Journey Into Night," with Katharine Hepburn and Ralph Richardson.

But then things slowed down. "I did some obscure films and mediocre TV stuff," he said, complaining bitterly that despite his 40 years' experience he was obliged to audition for television



Dean Stockwell (right), with Jürgen Prochnow in scene from "Dune."

parts he described as "just standing on your head."

"I just wasn't lucky enough. It wasn't in the cards."

But then came his marriage and his move to New Mexico. "Dune" and "Paris, Texas" — both filmed practically in his own backyard — followed shortly.

"Dune," based on the 1965 novel by Frank Herbert, was shot in Mexico. Stockwell plays Dr. Yueh, whom he describes as "a sort of traitor who rats on the good guys."

"There's a lot of acting in 'Dune,'" he said. "It's not just a special-effects movie, although it has the greatest sets I've ever seen." He explained that enormous sand worms are an integral part of "Dune."

"They did some big mockups of these worms for the actors to get close to. You know, I did both 'Dune' and 'Paris, Texas' in the

same year. One worm in "Dune" cost more than the entire budget of "Paris, Texas."

Stockwell considers his work in "Paris, Texas," his best so far. The film won prizes in the United States but opened in the United States to mixed reviews although Stockwell's performance was hailed as worthy of an Oscar for best supporting actor. He plays Walt, who patiently guides his long-lost brother, played by Harry Dean Stanton, out of his isolation and reunites him with his family.

"There's something magical about that film," he said. "There's no sex in it, no violence, but a lot of people are emotionally bombed by it."

"It was wonderful working with Harry," he said of Stanton, who is considered an actor's actor. But acting since the age of 6, Stockwell bristles at the suggestion that he might have picked up

a few pointers from his co-star.

"Well, I've been doing this too long. He didn't show me any tricks I didn't know. He may have a few up his sleeve, but I've got my own. I don't want to know them."

The intense, low-voiced Stockwell brightens when he speaks of his wife, Joy, and his 11-month-old son, Austin Wallace.

"I'm just so happy to be working. It sure beats waiting by the phone," Stockwell is returning to Santa Fe for another film. More projects are lined up. "I truly feel my best work is still ahead of me," he said.

"I'm available for 'Paris, Texas II' and 'Paris, Texas III.' But I can't come back in another 'Dune' movie. I die. But then, so does almost everyone else."

"Dune" opens Dec. 14 in the United States.

CHINA POSTCARD

The First Waltz in Beihai

By Iain Guest

International Herald Tribune

BEIHAI, China — When Zhang Fa Quiang, the deputy mayor of Beihai, stepped out to take the first dance with a foreign visitor, everyone knew that life here would never be the same again.

Dancing and foreigners are a novelty in this town of 160,000 people on the Gulf of Tonkin. Beihai closed its doors on the outside world after the French abandoned a consulate here in 1949. Dancing was banned under the Cultural Revolution and strongly discouraged under a campaign against "spiritual pollution."

On May 1, Beihai became one of 14 "open" cities along the coast that have been given a large measure of freedom to attract foreign investment. Already foreign oil companies have sunk seven exploratory wells off Beihai.

Dancing resumed only two months ago in a country where every gesture by a public official is carefully watched. Zhang Fa Quiang's quick turn around the floor — with a foreigner — simply makes it official.

Beihai is close to the frontier with Vietnam, but to people in the streets the quarrel with Vietnam seems a thousand miles away. Their concerns are largely domestic. At present, they center on Beihai's future as an open city and the Oct. 20 decision by the Central Committee in Beijing to lift price controls and production quotas from great swatches of Chinese industry.

For the moment, however, the doubts are put aside, and it's time to dance. Admission costs 80 cents, which brings unsweetened tea, a refreshing hot towel and music by an amateur ensemble from the Beihai harbor administration.

As many as 400 locals crowd into the hall. They watch openmouthed as the foreigners, a group of visiting journalists, plus officials from Beijing, ham their way around the floor, joints loosened by a welcoming banquet that included duck feet, 100-year-old eggs, sea worms and lashings of *mao tai* — the clear Chinese liquor that goes down like razor blades.

Many of the older couples studiously ignore the invasion. But Wu Huiying, 23, wearing an elegant red-and-white pantsuit, was brave enough to accept an invitation to dance. Later, Shi Mingsham, from

the news agency Xinhua — one of the visiting party — approached her for an interview.

"So many foreign friends danced with you. Were you afraid?" he asked. "No," she replied. "Why should I be?"

One reason might be the unfamiliarity of the foreign friends. Wu Huiying, who works in a local pharmaceutical factory, danced beautifully, and one of her graceful routines seemed totally new to the Western visitors. Presumably it's traditionally Chinese. Like 100-year-old eggs, or the Great Wall. Actually, explained Hu Wuying, it's something called a "waltz." One local government official said that he learned it in the mid-1950s from Russian military advisers who used to hold dances in Beijing every week.

By Western standards, the dance was sedate. There were more young men than women and no alcohol. The part-time art troupe played mostly Chinese songs, including a lively ballad "I Give You a Rose" and a Taiwanese song called "Hu Bay."

There was one interlude during which a young man took a take-off of Mick Jagger, to loud applause, and Shi Mingsham asked about breaking-dance in New York.

But the foreign presence led to mounting confusion, culminating in a ragged reel, which moved around the hall, drawing in giggling bystanders. After it was over, the band politely applauded itself, and the visiting officials from Beijing wiped the sweat from their brows.

"I haven't done that for 25 years," one said.

Hu Wuying looked radiant. She had handled the ordeal with tact and discretion, despite all the foreign friends that had been stepping on her toes all evening.

Humorists to Meet in India

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — A humorist's conference will be held in India Feb. 8-12. The conference was scheduled for November but postponed because of the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Countries that have confirmed participation are the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

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